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REPUBLICANS ATTACK SOCIAL ISSUES IN BUDGET

TENN. GOVERNOR SIGNS ANTI-GAY LAW

STILL JAMMIN'

DJ JOHN COLLINS ON DETROIT'S ELECTRONIC MOVEMENT FESTIVAL

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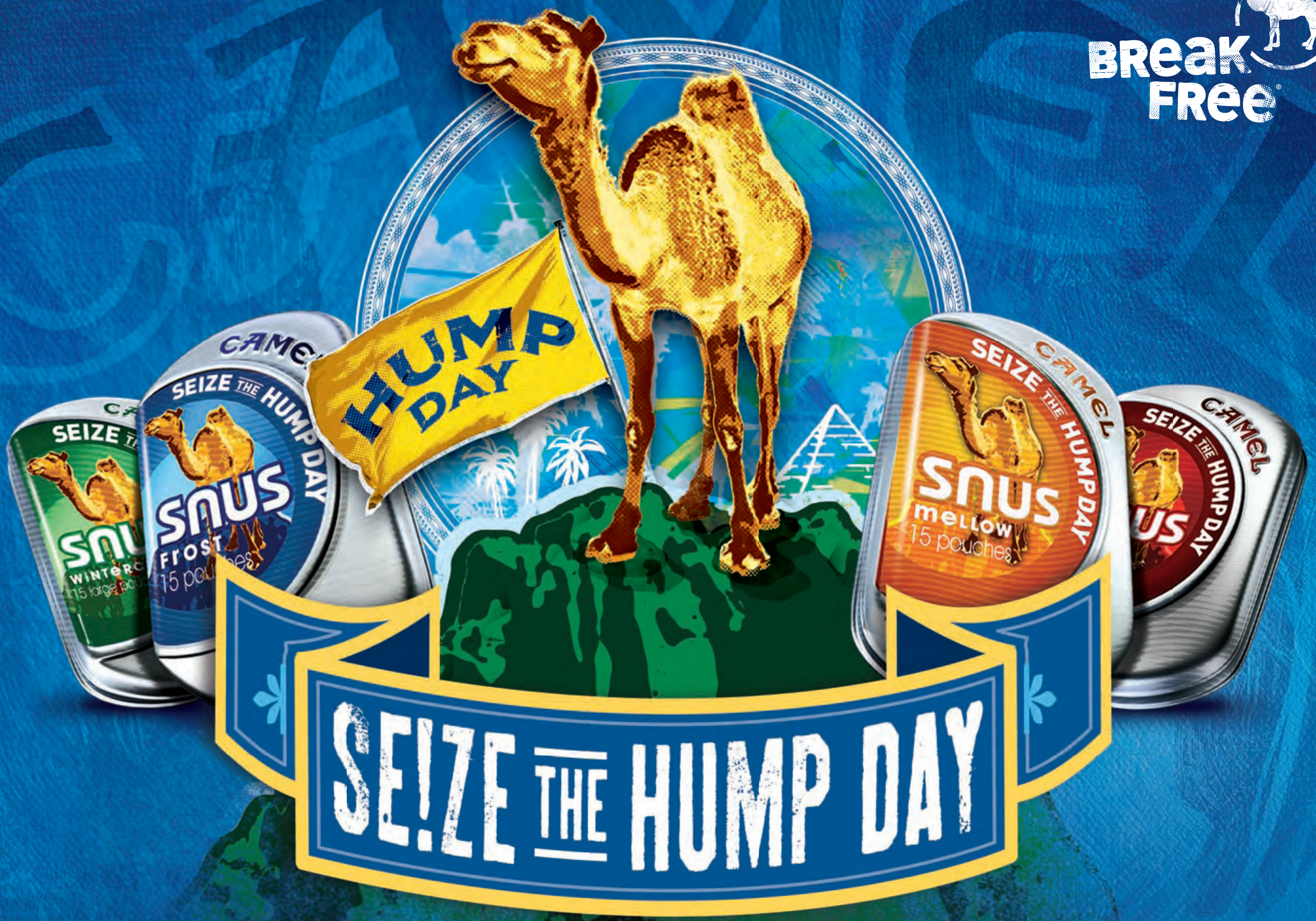
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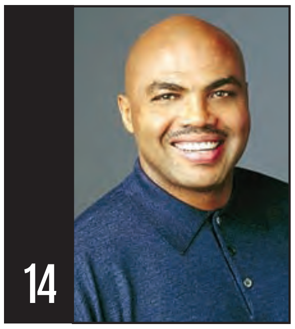

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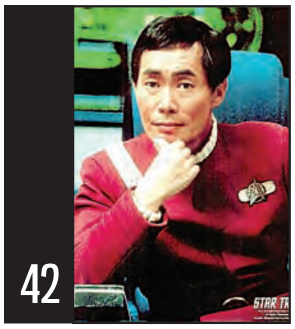

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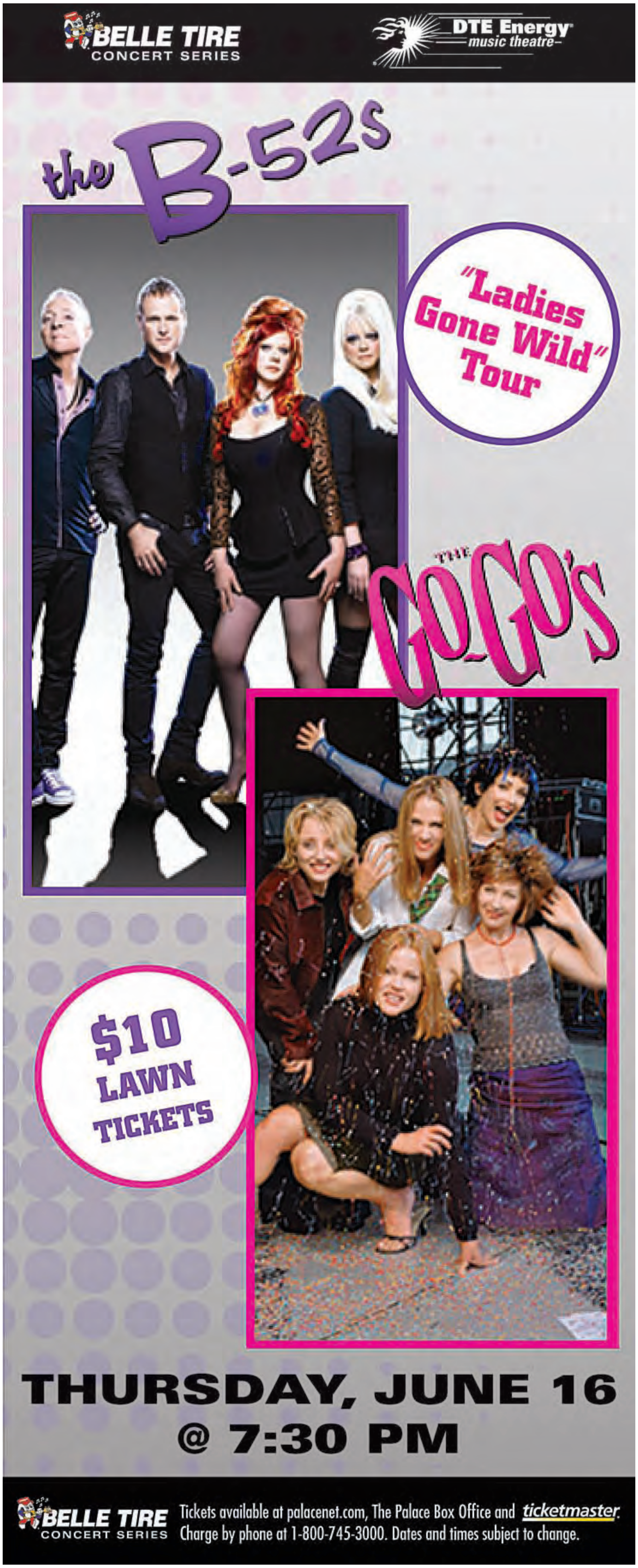

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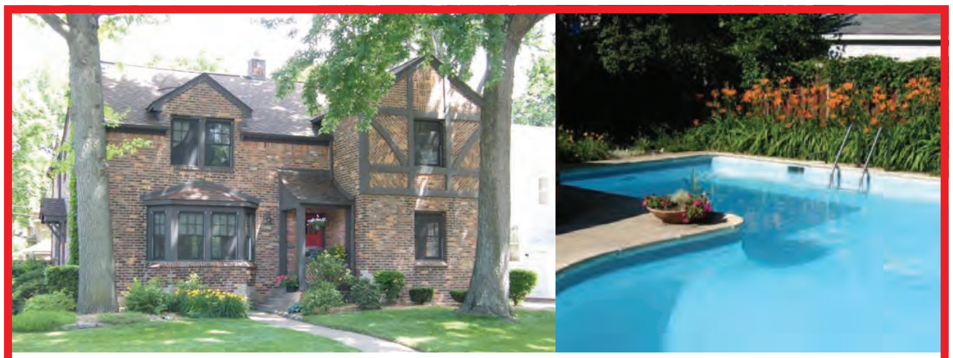

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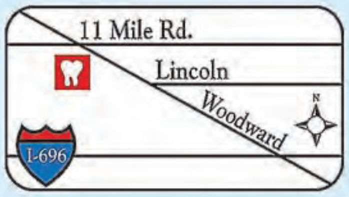

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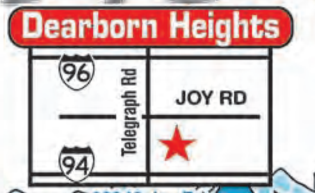

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Publishers
Susan Horowitz
Jan Stevenson

EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief
Susan Horowitz
susanhorowitz@pridesource.com

News Editor
Tara Cavanaugh
taracavanaugh@pridesource.com

Entertainment Editor
Chris Azzopardi
chrisazzopardi@pridesource.com

Arts & Theater Editor
Donald V. Calamia,
curtaincalls@pridesource.com

Calendar Editor
Benjamin Jenkins
calendar@pridesource.com

CREATIVE

Art Director
David Ano, davidano@pridesource.com

Webmaster & MIS Director
Kevin Bryant, kevinbryant@pridesource.com

Contributing Writers
Charles Alexander, D.A. Blackburn, Michelle E. Brown, John Corvino, Jack Fertig, Lisa Keen, Jim Larkin, Anthony Paull, Andrea Poteet, Crystal Proxmire, Bob Roehr, Hannah Schwab, Gregg Shapiro, Jody Valley, D'Anne Witkowski, Rex Wockner, Dan Woog

Cartoonists
Paul Berg, Dave Brousseau, Joan Hilty

Contributing Photographers
Andrew Potter
Emily Locklear

ADVERTISING & SALES

Director of Sales
Jan Stevenson, jan@pridesource.com

Sales Representatives
Ann Cox, anncox@pridesource.com
Greg Flood, gregflood@pridesource.com

National Advertising Representative
Rivendell Media, 212.242.6863

Business Office
Diane Smith, dianesmith@pridesource.com
Nancy Blankenship

Circulation & Distribution
Diane Smith

Pride Source Media Group
11920 Farmington Road
Livonia, Michigan 48150
Phone 734.293.7200 • Fax 734.293.7201
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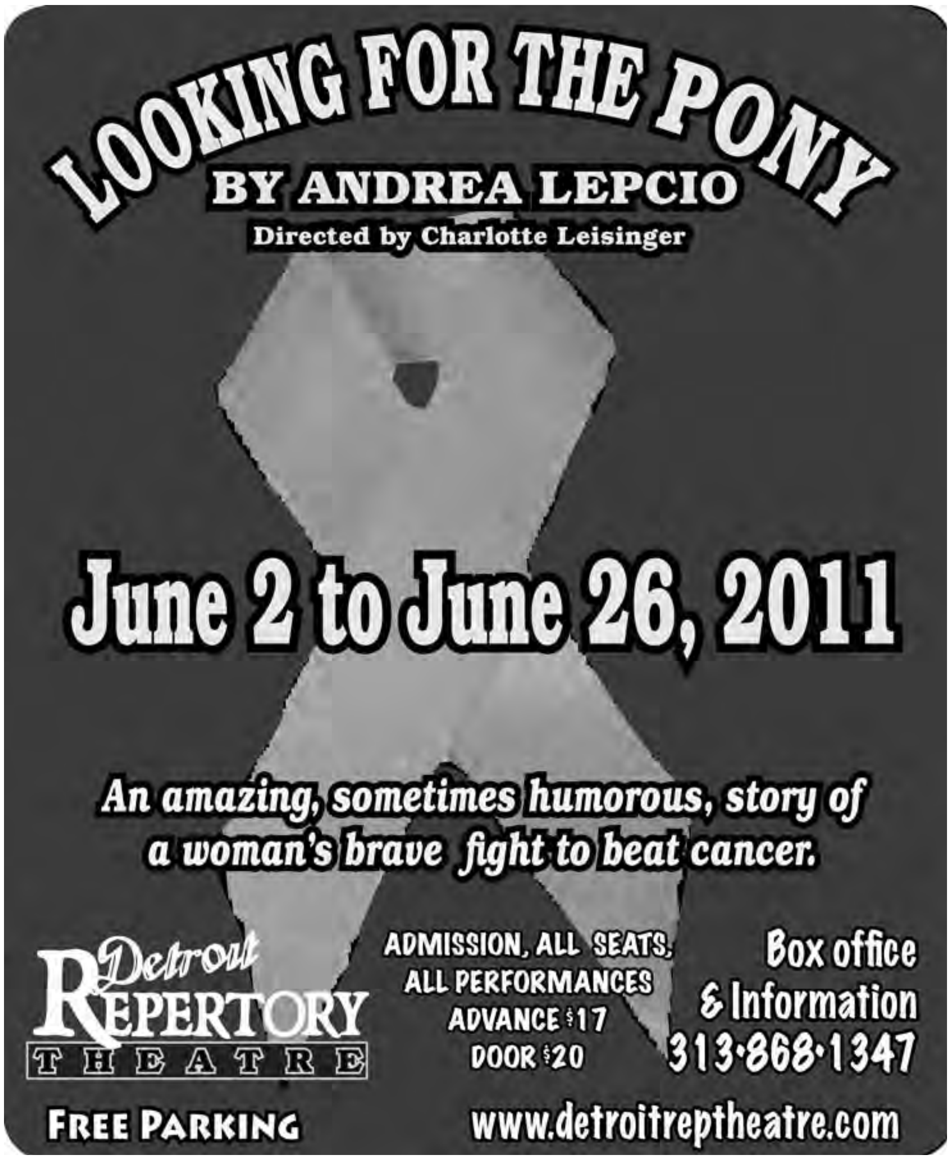
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BTL Speak Out

BY ERIC RADER

Regressive social agenda crystal clear in Republican budget plans

BY ERIC RADER

Over the past few weeks, much of the nation has been focused on national and international events, including the killing of Osama bin Laden, developments in the Mideast peace process, large spikes in the price of gas, and tornadoes and flooding in the southern portion of the U.S. Meanwhile, the 2012 presidential campaign is just beginning to heat up, with President Obama declaring his candidacy for a second term and a number of Republicans making decisions on whether they will take on the incumbent. With all that's going on in the world, sometimes it's hard to keep track of events happening closer to home.

In Lansing, our political leaders have been busily working on the 2012 budget for the state of Michigan. Last year, Rick Snyder campaigned for governor on a pledge to reform Michigan's tax structure to make the state more appealing for business development (in his view), and to balance the state budget with large cuts in spending. The legislature and the governor are now negotiating the final details of the taxing and spending package for next year. The merits of Gov. Snyder's policies should be debated, as they have been vigorously since January. One thing is clear, whether a person supports the governor's plans or opposes his proposals: Michigan voters were focused on the state's challenged economy, not social issues, when they elected Republicans to lead our government last November.

Unfortunately, it seems that the large Republican majorities in the Michigan House and Senate think that they received a mandate from the voters to pursue radical social policies. One of the Michigan Senate's first actions this year was to approve a reversal of the Michigan Civil Service Commission's decision to grant domestic partner benefits to state employees. While the Senate's effort did not survive in the House, Michigan's Republican Attorney General Bill Schuette has announced that his office will go to court in an effort to overturn these benefits. It seems that in those rare instances when the political majority in Lansing can't achieve its aims legislatively, they'll waste state resources on lawsuits to accomplish the same goals.

The central reason why it's so difficult for public institutions in Michigan to offer benefits to the same-sex partners of their employees is because of Proposal 2, the anti-gay marriage initiative approved by voters in 2004. This amendment has been interpreted as meaning that public institutions cannot offer any benefits to the same-sex partners of employees. To get around this discriminatory interpretation of Proposal 2, several public universities and the state of Michigan approved "plus-one" employee benefit plans that allow employees to add a person living in their household to their employer-sponsored health plans. A few weeks ago, Rep. Dave Agema, R-Grandville, added an amendment to the higher education appropriations bill that would reduce a university's state funding by 5 percent if it offers plus-one benefits to its employees. Senate Republicans have inserted separate language in the higher education budget that would restrict the efforts of universities to prohibit discrimination against LGBTs by students in counseling programs. These mean-spirited amendments, which do nothing to balance the state budget, are now being considered as part of the final budget conference process between the Michigan House and Senate.

Gov. Snyder has largely stayed out of the debates over social issues since he took office, though he did voice his opposition to the civil service commission's decision to grant domestic partner benefits. During his campaign last year, Snyder indicated that he supported providing some legal recognition to same-sex couples. To his credit, the governor does support comprehensive anti-bullying legislation now pending in the Michigan Legislature. Unfortunately, the governor's Republican colleagues would like to water-down this bill, eliminating sexual orientation and gender identity as enumerated categories in the legislation.

Our leaders in Lansing have a huge task in the next few years, one that should be about transitioning the state into a new economy for the 21st century. Michigan voters did not send officials to the state capital to pursue discriminatory social policies. Indeed, states will remain economically stagnant if they do not show they believe in equality, inclusivity, and basic fairness. Discrimination is wrong and should not be advanced by our political leaders. The religious right was frustrated for eight years by former Gov. Jennifer Granholm, who stymied their efforts to enact a regressive social agenda. Now, they are attempting to push the same repellant policies, hoping that a Republican governor will be more sympathetic to their cause. We need to remind Gov. Snyder and other Republicans that they were elected to improve the well-being of all Michigan citizens, regardless of who they are. If our officials don't fulfill their true mandate from the people, then the voters should send our leaders packing at election time.

Contact Gov. Snyder and your legislators – urge them to oppose the efforts to insert social issues in the state budget:

Rick.Snyder@michigan.gov
Phone: 517-335-7858
Find your Michigan Representative:
http://house.michigan.gov/find_a_rep.asp
Find your Michigan Senator:
http://www.senate.michigan.gov/fysenator/fysenator.htm

Tell Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette that you oppose his lawsuit challenging the Michigan Civil Service Commission:

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Budget deal includes controversial non-budgetary provisions affecting LGBTs

Gov. Snyder legal counsel: some provisions unconstitutional

BY TODD HEYWOOD

The budget compromise announced by Gov. Rick Snyder, House Speaker Jase Bolger and Senate Majority Leader Randy Richardville last week contains at least one provision that the governor's legal counsel has said is unconstitutional and two controversial provisions that have nothing to do with the budget and would affect LGBT citizens.

Penalizing universities for partner benefits, 'protecting' Christian counseling students

Gov. Snyder's legal counsel Michael Gadola wrote a letter on May 18 to Richardville and Bolger. In his letter he said it was unconstitutional to fine state universities five percent of their state funding if they continued to offer benefits to unrelated, unmarried live-in partners of university employees. That language has now been changed so it merely expresses the opinion of the legislature that offering such benefits violates the constitution. The language no longer contains any penalties.

In addition to those two provisions, the Senate higher education bill includes a religious conscience clause requiring state universities with accredited counseling programs to "report" on actions to protect counseling students from having to do something which might interfere with the "sincerely held religious beliefs" of the student.

Section 472 was described by a Senate Fiscal Agency document as follows: "Religious Beliefs. Requires report from each university on efforts to accommodate the sincerely held religious beliefs of students enrolled in accredited counseling degree programs. (Sec. 472)"

The Senate higher education bill requires state universities with accredited counseling programs to "report" on actions to protect counseling students from having to do something which might interfere with their "sincerely held religious beliefs."

Gov. Snyder's legal counsel has said that a provision in the Republican budget compromise requiring universities to report on stem-cell research would be both unconstitutional and unenforceable. Snyder did not say whether he would use his line-item veto on the provision.

Rep. Dave Agema, R-Grandville, wanted to penalize state universities five percent for offering domestic partner benefits.

That move comes in response to the case of Julea Ward.

Ward was a graduate student in the Eastern Michigan University counseling program, but she was expelled from the program when she declined to counsel a gay student. In refusing to counsel the student she said approving of homosexuality would violate her sincerely held religious beliefs that the Bible condemned homosexuality.

The school held a hearing and removed her from the program for violating the school's adherence to a national standard of ethics in the field of counseling. That ethical standard requires counselors to put their own views to the side to counsel people with whom they may disagree. The school panel also found unanimously that she violated the non-discrimination policy. She filed suit in federal court, but lost in the District level and is currently appealing to the Sixth Circuit Court.

Ward's case has become a cause celebre for the religious right, especially for Gary Glenn and the American Family Association of Michigan.

Emily Dievendorf, policy director for Equality Michigan, slammed the counseling provision in a statement:

"Our public universities have a responsibility to train competent counselors who are capable of serving the needs of all clients. It's crucial that students seeking services at counseling facilities are treated with respect in times of need. Professional ethics rules bar counselors from exhibiting intolerance or discrimination. Our institutions of higher learning must comply with such standards.

"Fair-minded constituents won't stand for this. They understand that refusing mental health services to individuals based on religious belief is both absurd and unprofessional. This amendment is yet another example of Republican extremists pushing a blatant social agenda to harm gay and transgender students. It has no place in our law and no place in our highly respected institutions of higher learning."

Bolger told Michigan Messenger the provision was about the "constitutional rights" of students.

Stem cell research

During a May 19 press conference announcing the budget agreement reached by the Republican leadership, Bolger said that a controversial line item to institute reporting provisions for stem cell research done in the state would remain in the budget.

Gadola also informed Richardville and Bolger in his letter that this provision would violate the state constitution. When voters approved a referendum legalizing stem cell research, they included an exclusive set of "enumerated limitations." The reporting requirement now demanded by Republicans, Gadola said, "violates the express language of the constitution and is unenforceable."

Nonetheless, that provision remains in the budget bills that will be sent to the governor's desk for his signature. In spite of having the letter from his own legal counsel, Snyder would not say whether or not he would use his line item veto to strike those provisions.

"We'll just have to wait until they have passed the budget and what comes before us," Snyder said when asked whether he would do so.

Story originally published on michiganmessenger.com

'Religious Conscience Clause' in the Republican budget compromise

- **What:** Provision in the Senate higher education bill that mandates universities with counseling programs report on protecting students' "sincerely held religious beliefs."

- **Why:** A graduate counseling student at Eastern Michigan University was dismissed after refusing to counsel gays. EMU maintains that it was holding the student to the national standards in the counseling career field. The student has sued EMU; her case was initially dismissed, but she is appealing.

- **Contact:** Your state senator at senate.mich.gov.

Kathleen Hollinger, left, and her fiancee, Tina Nelson, thank Minnesota state representative Karen Clark, right, for her continued support of a marriage equality bill and for her opposition to a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage at the Minnesota State Capitol in St. Paul, Minn. on Friday, May 20, 2011.(AP Photo/The St. Paul Pioneer Press, Jean Pieri)

Minnesota voters will decide on gay marriage ban

Nov. 2012 vote could provide 'giant step backward,' say opponets

BY PATRICK CONDON

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP)– It's now up to voters to decide whether to ban gay marriage in Minnesota.

After nearly six hours of emotional debate, a proposed constitutional amendment that would define marriage as between a man and a woman was approved in the Minnesota House late Saturday, May 21. It was the last legislative step needed to put the question on the statewide ballot in November 2012.

State law already prohibits gay marriage, but supporters of the proposed amendment said it's necessary to prevent judges or lawmakers from legalizing it in the future. Opponents said the constitution should be used to expand rights, not limit them, and predicted a long, divisive debate over the next 18 months.

The House voted 70-62 mostly along party lines in the GOP-controlled chamber, though four Republicans crossed over to vote "no" while two Democrats voted in favor of the ban.

During Saturday's debate, which drew hundreds of people to the Capitol, Rep. Karen Clark described her 22-year committed relationship with her female partner. The Minneapolis Democrat said they considered getting married in Iowa, where gay marriage is legal, so her ailing father could see her marry.

"Please don't make me go off to Iowa," she told her colleagues. "I was raised in Minnesota. I'm a child of Minnesota."

After the vote, Clark said it was "a sad day for Minnesota."

But Jason Adkins, executive director of the Minnesota Catholic Conference, said it was an important step and that "Minnesotans have been given the opportunity to have an important conversation about the future of marriage."

Democratic Gov. Mark Dayton has no power to block the question from the ballot, but said before the vote that he would fight it. Dayton called the amendment, which the Senate approved last week, "un-Minnesotan."

A rare quiet prevailed in the House chamber as members made emotional and often personal speeches in opposition to the amendment. The issue drew an unusually large crowd to the Capitol, where supporters and opponents traded loud chants earlier in the day but quieted considerably when the debate started around dinnertime.

Rep. Steve Gottwalt, the bill's sponsor, said voters should have the final word on the issue.

"This is not about hatred. It is not about discrimination or intolerance," said Gottwalt, R-St. Cloud.

But fellow Republican Rep. John Kriesel described how losing his legs while serving in Iraq began a personal transformation of his views on the issue. He said he would have supported the amendment five years ago, but has since realized that the country for which he fought should not deny two people who love each other the right to marry.

"I'm pleading with you to vote no," said Kriesel, R-Cottage Grove. "I'm begging you."

Ban opponents made up the majority of observers who stayed late to watch the debate from the second floor of the Capitol, where televisions broadcasted a live feed. They could be heard from inside the House chamber singing hymns and occasionally cheering during pivotal moments of lawmakers' speeches.

The debate had been postponed Friday after a pastor known for anti-gay comments delivered a controversial prayer on the House floor that prompted Speaker of the House Kurt Zellers to apologize.

During the floor debate, many lawmakers spoke of their own marriages and families, gay relatives and friends, religions and military service, or facing discrimination and bullying as children.

Several said they worried that debate on the issue between now and November 2012 would leave gay youth feeling marginalized and vulnerable.

Among the few Republicans who spoke during the debate was Rep. Tim Kelly of Red Wing, who called the proposed amendment "an assault on personal freedom and choice" and a "giant step backward."

Besides Gottwalt, the only other Republican to speak in favor of the amendment was Rep. Rod Hamilton of Mountain Lake. He described being torn, and said his teenage daughter recently pointed out that she would be 18 by November 2012 – and she plans to vote against the ban.

"She said, 'Dad, I think a person should be able to marry whomever they love whether it's the opposite sex or not,'" Hamilton said.

Rutgers roommate in webcam case pleads not guilty

19-year-old charged with bias intimidation, invasion of privacy, evidence tampering

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J.(AP)– A former Rutgers student accused of using a webcam to spy on his roommate's same-sex encounter pleaded not guilty Monday to 15 charges including bias intimidation, invasion of privacy and evidence tampering.

It was the first court appearance for 19-year-old Dharun Ravi, the main suspect in the crimes allegedly committed against Tyler Clementi, a fellow Rutgers freshman who killed himself days after the alleged spying. His death sparked a nationwide conversation about bullying against young gays.

Ravi, of Plainsboro, was silent throughout the court appearance, which lasted less than 10 minutes. Clementi's parents and brother sat in the back of the courtroom for the brief hearing.

Lawyer Steven Altman entered a not guilty plea for Ravi and waived having the indictment against him read in court.

Authorities say the case began in early August, when Ravi learned who he'd be rooming with in his first year at Rutgers.

Soon after that, he posted a message on his Twitter account: "Found out my roommate is gay," and linked to a thread that Clementi is believed to have posted on a gay community chat room.

Then on Sept. 19, according to Twitter archives stored by Google, he tweeted again: "Roommate asked for the room till midnight. I went into molly's room and turned on my webcam. I saw him making out with a dude. Yay."

Authorities say that was the night Ravi used the webcam to spy on his roommate – and that he tried to do it again two nights later.

Clementi, an 18-year-old violinist, killed himself Sept. 22 by jumping off the George Washington Bridge.

Prosecutors say that Ravi deleted Twitter and text messages to cover up the alleged crimes.

The most serious charges he faces are bias intimidation, which can be punished by up to 10 years in prison.

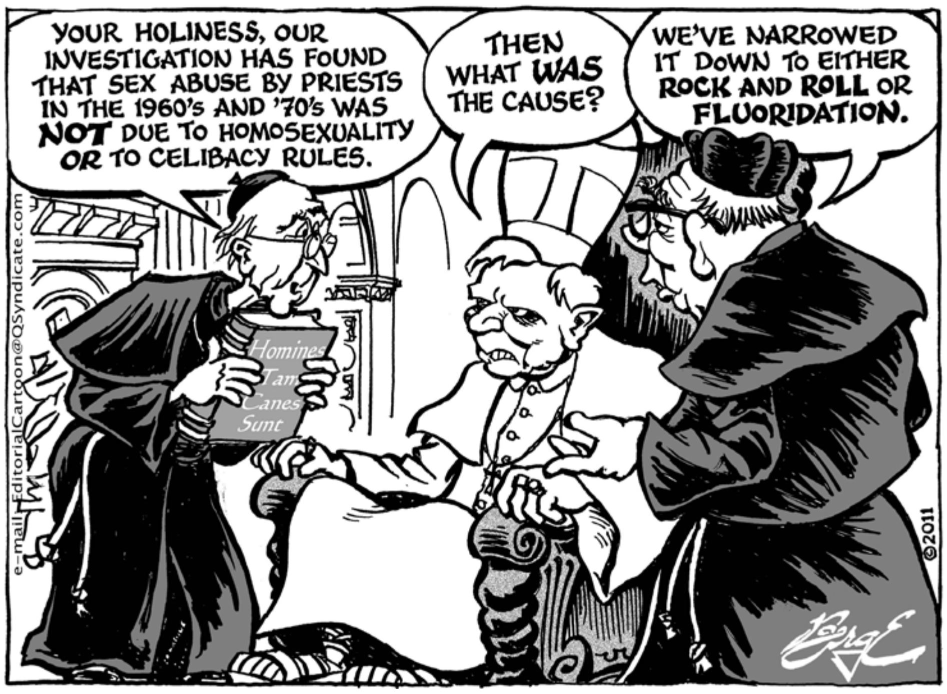
Ravi's lawyer, Altman, said he's starting to make his way through the evidence prosecutors have provided him.

Altman said he would hire an expert and possibly an investigator to interview witnesses.

Judge Glenn Berman scheduled a status conference on the case for July 25, with lawyers for Ravi and the Middlesex County Prosecutor's to exchange evidence before then.

One of the witnesses is Molly Wei, who is also charged with invasion of privacy in the case. Earlier this month, she was accepted into a pretrial intervention program. Charges against her will be dropped in three years if she meets a series of conditions, including cooperating with investigators.

Her lawyer says she's been cooperating since the beginning.


YOUR HOLINESS, OUR INVESTIGATION HAS FOUND THAT SEX ABUSE BY PRIESTS IN THE 1960's AND '70's WAS NOT DUE TO HOMOSEXUALITY OR TO CELIBACY RULES.
THEN WHAT WAS THE CAUSE?
WE'VE NARROWED IT DOWN TO EITHER ROCK AND ROLL OR FLUORIDATION.
Homines Tam Canes Sunt
e-mail: EditorialCartoon@QSyndicate.com
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Editorial

Stick to the budget, Repubs.

Unless you've been living under a rock, you know that Republicans across the country had a great election last year, and our state was no exception. Michigan citizens voted in a majority-Republican state House and Senate and also a Republican governor. These political victors talked only about jobs, jobs, jobs on the campaign trail and avoided saying anything about social issues – as if the mere phrase itself would bring Lord Voldemort back.

But now, said Republicans are working social issues into their budget plans.

They've inserted language that would mandate a report on university stem cell research, even though Gov. Snyder's legal counsel says doing so is unconstitutional and unenforceable.

They've also added in language that would force state universities with counseling programs to report how they are "protecting" Christian students' "sincerely held beliefs."

This is in response to the case of Julea Ward, a student in the graduate level counseling program at Eastern Michigan University, who was dismissed from the program after refusing to counsel gay students, citing her "sincerely held beliefs" that the Bible tells her homosexuality is wrong. Ward sued, and her case was dismissed. (How's that for déjà vu?) Now she's appealing. EMU maintains that it must adhere to the standards of the counseling organizations that give it accreditation. If this amendment passes, we're not sure what it would mean for the Michigan schools that offer counseling degrees.

And, we can't forget that particular rep from a little west side town called Grandville who added in a five percent penalty to state schools who offer domestic partner benefits. Such benefits aren't technically called benefits – they actually allow a "plus-one" option for employees – but they do end up offering benefits to domestic partners. Somehow in the negotiations between Snyder and Republicans, that language was changed to remove the penalty while making clear that the plus-one benefits are frowned upon.

Yeah, that's right. Wag your finger, Rep. Agema. Because that's all you can do on that issue.

For all the confidence Republican lawmakers should have right now with all of their majority support, you'd think they'd feel comfortable openly pursuing whatever regressive social agenda they want to. They shouldn't tuck it in budget bills. Doing so is like hiding in plain sight: Painfully obvious. You know how toddlers, once they near potty-training age, might wander over to a corner to poo in their diapers? Yeah, it's like that. Everyone can see you, Repubs. We can smell you too.

> You know how toddlers, once they near potty-training age, might wander over to a corner to poo in their diapers? Yeah, it's like that. Everyone can see you, Repubs. We can smell you too.

In other words – in no uncertain terms, actually – we say to state Republican lawmakers: Go for it. No, really. If you want to pursue some religious, regressive social agenda, then just do it. Out in the open. Confidently. Like the crazy old privileged white guys that you are.

Unless, that is, you're afraid of something. Of a growing number of churches who are welcoming LGBTs with open arms, perhaps? Of a growing majority of twenty-and-thirty-somethings who support LGBT equality – and who are only growing older and more politically aware? Or maybe you're afraid that science, medicine, psychology, history and the entertainment industry aren't on your side anymore?

But we know that's just silly – y'all aren't afraid of anything. Wait a second… do you… do you smell something?

The Gay Moralist

BY JOHN CORVINO

Civil unions better than nothing

By the time you read this, the Rhode Island House will have passed a civil-unions bill that no one seems to want.

Many gay-rights advocates in the state, led by Marriage Equality Rhode Island, are opposing the civil-unions bill because it doesn't go far enough. A majority of Rhode Islanders support full marriage equality. So does the governor, Lincoln Chafee. And Democrats vastly outnumber Republicans in the state legislature. Yet House Speaker Gordon Fox, a gay man, claims that a full marriage bill doesn't have enough votes to pass.

Meanwhile, gay-rights opponents, with strong support from the local Roman Catholic bishop, are opposing the civil-unions bill because they believe it's a step on the way to marriage.

They're right, of course. As Vermont, New Hampshire, and Connecticut have shown, civil unions can be a gateway to fuller equality: all three states started with civil unions for same-sex couples and now have marriage. It will not be long before Rhode Island legislators realize that a hodgepodge of different legal statuses for gay and straight relationships in different states is logically, practically, and morally untenable.

I don't follow Rhode Island politics closely enough to know whether Rep. Fox is right when he says that there aren't enough votes to pass marriage equality in the state.

And my crystal ball won't answer hypotheticals, like how getting civil unions now will affect getting marriage later. Maybe it will speed it up, as people see us getting civil unions and realize that legal recognition of our relationships won't make the sky fall. Maybe it will slow it down, as people deceive themselves into thinking that civil unions are just as good as marriage, even though they're not. I just don't know.

What I do know is this. First, when it comes to the real needs of same-sex couples, something is better than nothing. I say this as someone who lives in a state that constitutionally prohibits not only same-sex marriage but also "similar unions for any purpose" – in other words, a state that has worse than nothing. Getting civil unions now is something, and it shouldn't prevent Rhode Islanders from continuing to push for full marriage equality, both locally and federally.

Second, I know that "separate but equal" never turns out to be equal.

We can see this quite explicitly in the Rhode Island civil-unions bill, which earlier this week was watered down to eliminate recognition of "substantially similar" legal relationships in other states.

What that means, in practical terms, is this: when traveling in Rhode Island, a civil-union couple from New Jersey will be recognized as such, but a married same-sex couple from either of Rhode Island's border states (Massachusetts and Connecticut) would be legal strangers. So would, for example, a domestically partnered couple from California.

> "Separate but equal" never turns out to be equal.

I'll say it again: a hodgepodge of different legal statuses for gay and straight relationships is logically, practically, and morally untenable.

But it's not just the lack of reciprocity that's a problem. No matter how robust we make civil union legislation, no matter how closely we try to mirror marriage law in it, the very fact that we call these relationships by a different name creates a legal hierarchy. People read difference into different terms.

So even if the legal incidents were fully identical – which they are not, not even by a long shot – their practical effects would not be.

We've seen this problem in plenty of real-life cases: cases where hospital staff deny civil-union partners access to each other until documentation is produced, where no similar request is made of married couples. Or where funeral home directors fail to treat civil-union partners as next-of-kin. Or where people are forced to "out" themselves in employment or legal situations by checking a "civil union" box rather than a "married" box. Or – more commonly – where no "civil union" box is provided at all.

The fact is that we already have a legal status for couples who commit themselves to each other as family, to have and to hold, for better or for worse, in sickness and in health, and so on.

It's called marriage. Civil unions are something less.

As I've said many times, something is better than nothing. I congratulate Rhode Islanders on getting something. And I encourage them not to waver in the ongoing fight for full equality.

John Corvino, Ph.D. is a writer, speaker, and philosophy professor at Wayne State University in Detroit. Read more at www.johncorvino.com.

Tenn. gov. signs anti-gay law

New law prohibits cities from creating anti-discrimination bans stricter than state law

BY TARA CAVANAUGH

NASHVILLE– Tenn. Gov. Bill Haslam signed a controversial bill into law Monday night that bans cities from creating anti-discrimination policies that are stricter than state anti-discrimination law.

The city that will be affected by the bill, HB 600/SB 632, is Nashville, which bans discrimination on the basis of sexual identity or gender expression. It is not illegal to discriminate against citizens on the basis of sexual identity or gender expression in the state of Tennessee, so this new law renders Nashville's ban void.

> "Gov. Haslam has put discrimination ahead of the state's values and even business interests by signing this horrible legislation."
>
> –HRC President Joe Solmonese

The Tennessee Chamber of Commerce, whose board is full of leaders from national corporations, originally supported the new law. But after it was signed and was widely circulated as an anti-gay law, it reversed its support.

The Tennessean reported a Chamber of Commerce statement Monday:

"The Tennessee Chamber supports a standard regulatory environment at the state level as opposed to potentially conflicting local regulations covering employment practices.

"That principle was the only interest the Chamber had in this bill. Because (the bill) has turned into a debate on diversity and inclusiveness principles, which we support, we are now officially opposing this legislation in its present form."

Human Rights Campaign president Joe Solmonese released a statement about the new law on Monday night: "Discrimination should have no place in the Volunteer State and the Chamber's opposition to this law sent a strong signal that corporations are on the leading edge of positive change. In contrast, Gov. Haslam has put discrimination ahead of the state's values and even business interests by signing this horrible legislation."

Gay Los Angeles officer awarded more than $1M

Says he was subjected to derogatory remarks on the job

LOS ANGELES (AP)– An openly gay police sergeant who said he was subjected to derogatory remarks by his supervisor was awarded $1.1 million by a jury on May 19.

Sgt. Ronald Crump worked for the Los Angeles Police Department's media relations section in 2008 and 2009. While there, he said his supervisor, Lt. John Romero, made remarks about his sexuality, including that Crump was "the new Ruby minus the heels," a reference to a woman he succeeded in the unit.

Crump said that after he complained about the remarks through formal channels, his concerns were deemed to be unfounded. He ultimately was transferred to the city's Skid Row area, a move he said was punitive and cost him future opportunities for promotion.

> "My commanding officer made poor decisions that, unchallenged, would have had a serious effect on me and other employees who are retaliated against."
>
> –Sgt. Ronald Crump

"It was a serious dilemma for me to sue the agency that I admire and respect," Crump told the Los Angeles Times. "But my commanding officer made poor decisions that, unchallenged, would have had a serious effect on me and other employees who are retaliated against."

City Attorney spokesman John Franklin said the office is reviewing legal options.

The LAPD has come under recent criticism from the inspector general of the department's civilian oversight agency. A report found serious shortcomings in the way the department probes officers' retaliation charges.

The department has promised to increase training for supervisors accused of misconduct.

Last month, another jury awarded $2 million to two officers who said there was a "quota system" for writing traffic tickets.

Equality Action Tour stops in Detroit to discuss discrimination

DETROIT– A coalition of advocacy organizations is launching an Equality Action Tour, a series of town hall events to promote equality for all in Michigan. The sixth event in the series will take place at the Park Bar in Detroit on Tuesday, June 21 at 7 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. It will focus on the social, economic, and legal impact of discrimination faced by gay and transgender people and their families.

Current Michigan law does not prohibit discrimination based on gender identity or sexual orientation, leaving many at risk of being fired, evicted or denied services because they are gay or transgender.

The action tour stopped in Livonia on April 27, 2011. From left: Katie Strickfadden, Denise Brogan-Kator, Emily Dievendorf, Laura Hughes. The advocates lead a panel discussion about LGBT civil rights in Michigan. BTL photo: Tara Cavanaugh.

The sponsoring coalition, Unity Michigan, was formed in 2007 to advocate for equality. Unity Michigan is specifically working to promote policies that protect gay and transgender citizens and their families from discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations.

Panelists include representatives from the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan, Affirmations and Equality Michigan. Light food and refreshments will be provided, including beer and wine.

The Park Bar is located at 2040 Park Ave.

Youth summit June 11-12

DETROIT– KICK, The Agency for LGBT African-Americans, is sponsoring a youth summit on June 11-12 at the Ruth Ellis Center. Registration and continental breakfast begins at 9:30 a.m. with the opening session at 11:00 a.m. Lunch is provided and the entrance is free. Pre-registration is encouraged. Youth aged 13-25 are welcome.

The theme for the 2011 Youth Summit is "Recognize! Realize! Believe! Because We Are Worth It!" Attendees will be able to network and discuss issues, construct plans of action, and continue the groundwork that was laid during past Healing Detroit summits.

"We have a distinct opportunity to help our young people feel a part of and connected to the community," said John A. Trimble, community activist and summit coordinator. "The best ways for them to feel a connection is by having them at the table, listen to their thoughts, and give them the chance to contribute."

"I remember being the same age as some of these young people. I remember wanting to validate my existence by interacting with others like me," said Tiffany McLean, KICK board president. "I hope the youth summit will be a gateway to that for any young person who comes."

To register with Healing Detroit, email healingdetroit@yahoo.com or call 313-285-9733.

After-party benefit for REC

DETROIT– The Cupcake Collective deejays are sponsoring a party at the Old Miami on Saturday, June 4 from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.

The event benefits the Ruth Ellis Center, one of three shelters in the country dedicated to providing services to homeless LGBT youth.

The Cupcake Collective describes itself as "a group of queer folks and allies who believe music has always and will continue to bring people together and transform our lives."

The Old Miami is located at 3930 Cass Ave.

Lesbians of color support network hosts boat ride

DETROIT– The Lesbians of Color Support Network, the only mentorship program exclusively serving LGBT young women of color in Southeast Michigan, will host the first annual "Motor City Pride Boat Ride," a fundraiser aboard the Detroit Princess on June 5. LOCS Network has partnered with Equality Michigan to host the event.

This evening will feature world-renowned poets Jessica Care Moore and Natasha T. Miller, radio personality Madison Leigh, the band Final Cue, local singer/songwriter Charity Ward, international deejays Stacey "Hotwaxx" Hale and Lynda Carter and a host of other entertainers.

Boarding starts at 7 p.m. The boat will sail the Detroit River at 10:30 p.m., return at 12:30 a.m. and host a dance party until 2 a.m.

Heard on Facebook

What do you think about 'glittergate' – an activist dumping rainbow glitter on Newt Gingrich, who's hoping for the Republican nomination for the 2012 presidential race?

As funny as that was, it'll probably only make people who are against homosexuality think that we are childish and don't deserve grown-up rights.
–Jay Topham

What a waste of glitter!
–Anthony Battaglia

I think it was pretty damn funny. And a helluva lot less childish than bringing your gun to a political rally.
–Nancy Squires

I agree, it was funny. Newt is imploding on his own anyway!
–John McPhee

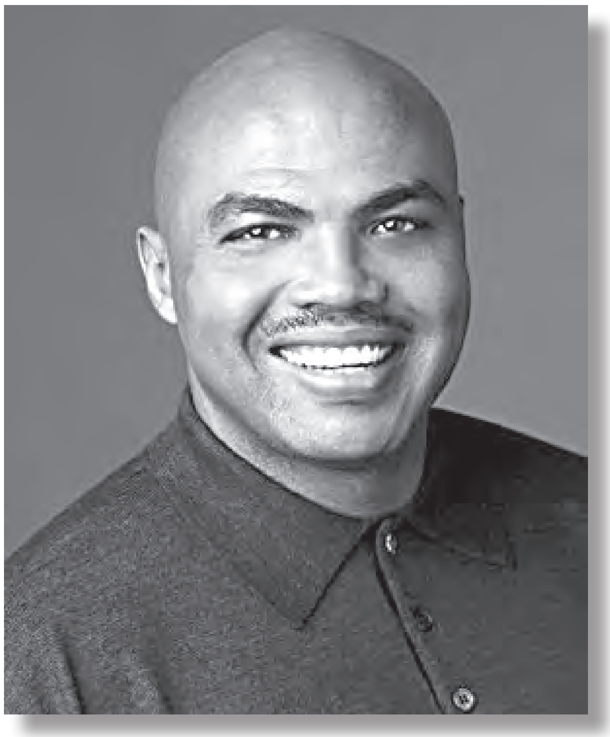
Comments may be edited for grammar and length.

Join the conversation ...
Search: "Between The Lines Newspaper"

BTL S/he Said

COMPILED BY TARA CAVANAUGH

Sports, homophobia



Charles Barkley

"Every player has played with gay guys. It bothers me when I hear these reporters and jocks get on TV and say: 'Oh, no guy can come out in a team sport. These guys would go crazy.' First of all, quit telling me what I think. I'd rather have a gay guy who can play than a straight guy who can't play."

–Charles Barkley, commenting on a radio show about Phoenix Suns President and CEO Rick Welts coming out as gay, washingtonpost.com, May 17. Barkley said he knew he had gay teammates during his basketball career and it never bothered him.

Joakim Noah

"A fan said something, and I said something back. I apologized. I don't know what's going to happen. I got caught up. I didn't mean any disrespect to anybody."

–Joakim Noah, apologizing after he called a fan a faggot, usatoday.com, May 24. Noah met with NBA officials and will pay a $50,000 fine.

Pete Stark

"Children in our foster-care system are some of our country's most vulnerable. We must do all we can to find them supportive and loving families. Failing to open every possible door to stable, permanent and loving homes is a grave disservice to these children and to our country."

–Pete Stark, a Democrat from California's 13th Congressional District and the ranking minority member of the House Ways and Means subcommittee on health, in an editorial titled "The parents are all right," washingtonpost.com, May 20. Stark is introducing the Every Child Deserves A Family Act, which would allow gay parents to adopt foster children.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo

"Mr. Cuomo says the state's same-sex couples should be given the right to marry, but he wants to hold back the vote until he is sure the bill will pass — a position supported by some advocates for gay rights. That's the wrong decision. The issue is so important that it deserves a full debate and vote in the Legislature. New Yorkers should know who will stand up for this basic civil right and who won't. "

–From a New York Times editorial titled "They Need To Be Counted," nytimes.com, May 19. The editorial pushes New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo to continue backing marriage equality in New York, and for legislators to be open about their position on the issue. A bill granting same-sex marriage in New York could be brought to the floor for debate before the current legislative session ends in a few weeks.

BTL Parting Glances
Then and Now

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Two up yours!

Gay composer Leonard Bernstein's 1956 broadway musical "Candide" has a bravura soprano song, "Glitter and be gay" written for and originally sung by Barbara Cook (still giving concerts at 80-something).

I thought of the show stopper when Newt Gingrich got bedazzled with a box full of fairy dust last week. It was truly a sparkling moment of gay actvism. Although rather tame when compared to what happened to another bigot 37 years ago.

That pulp non-fiction event was totally shocking. Downright naughty, even. Anti-Christian. Yet so deliciously thrilling to the hundreds of angry gays who just happened to be watching a late Florida TV newscast.

Anita Jane Bryant, America's homophobe du jour, beaming her famous Sunshine State cocoa-butter-wouldn't-melt-in-my-mouth smile ("as God is my witness"), got pie plastered mid anti-gay rant right in her pert-and-pretty, little lip-smeared kisser.

For once, the demonessa of Dade County, Fla. – the self-styled Queen of Orange Juice – titular forerunner to gridiron gruntbox, now jailbird O.J. Simpson – was struck dumbfounded. Speechless. It was heavenly. Couldn't have happened to a nicer fundygelical!

But in spite of her castor-oil-in-the-OJ hostility, her pulp-and-pits deceitfulness about us gays, in the long run we owe the 1959 Miss America runner up, turned popular, saccharine "Paper Roses" juke box, now-near-forgotten songstress a historical footnote of grudging thanks. (Grunt.)

It was she who, more than anyone else then, and perhaps now, served as a catalyst by default to bring gay/lesbian communities together, uniting our movement to an unexpected solidarity. (I had almost forgotten how zealous she was. How sweetly go-for-the-jugular in her rant and rancor. How holier than thou. Sorta like Sarah Palin.)

So, let's peel the orange for oldtime sake. Pulp, seeds and rind. Pesticide unavoidable...

Pert angelic Anita, spokesperson for the Florida Citrus Commission, wasn't too happy when a gay rights Dade County ordinance passed. Six months later, speaking as a Southern Baptist mom, she launched a Save Our Children repeal crusade. She mouthed lies, lip-synced stereotypes.

She crooned to the media rafters. Gay people are wicked. Godless. Out to stalk school playgrounds. "As a mother I know that homosexuals cannot biologically reproduce," she shrilled. "They must recruit children. If gays are granted rights, next we'll have to give rights to prostitutes, people who sleep with St. Bernards, nail biters."

Her blend of nail technician, canine venom worked. On June 7, 1977, Dade County's anti-discrimination ordinance was rescinded by a margin of 69 to 31 percent. But her cohorts didn't count on a gay backlash. "Anita brought us together big, big time," says a nameless lesbian interviewed in the 1970s documentary, "After Stonewall."

Across America, literally hundreds of thousands gays, lesbian, allies militantly marched in major cities across America. Some carried posters of Anita, side by side with posters of Adolf Hitler. Bryant the Bigot! The Demon Mom from Dade County!

Gay activists brilliantly organized a nationwide OJ boycott (some posting letters, enclosing $2, asking crop growers for a nonexistent pamphlet linking OJ with homosexuality.) The fallout from gay political activism poisoned her career big time.

She lost her Florida Orange Grower Commission hefty salary, followed by Coca Cola, Kraft Foods, Holiday Inn, Tupperware TV commercial accounts. Her marriage to hubby Bob Green also squeezed out. In 1980 she dumped him. (He wanted to pulp her.)

She married a second spousal lemon, Charlie Hobson Dry, in 1990. They tried to salvage her career, booking a series of small venues (including a Windsor, Ont. weekend).

Comeback proved fruitless. The Drys left behind unpaid employees and creditors. Bankruptcy pie hit twice. In 2005, dry throat Anita, 65, was parodied on "Will & Grace." Her lemon merin(gay) moment occasionally replays on YouTube. Let's drink to that! Milk over OJ, anytime.

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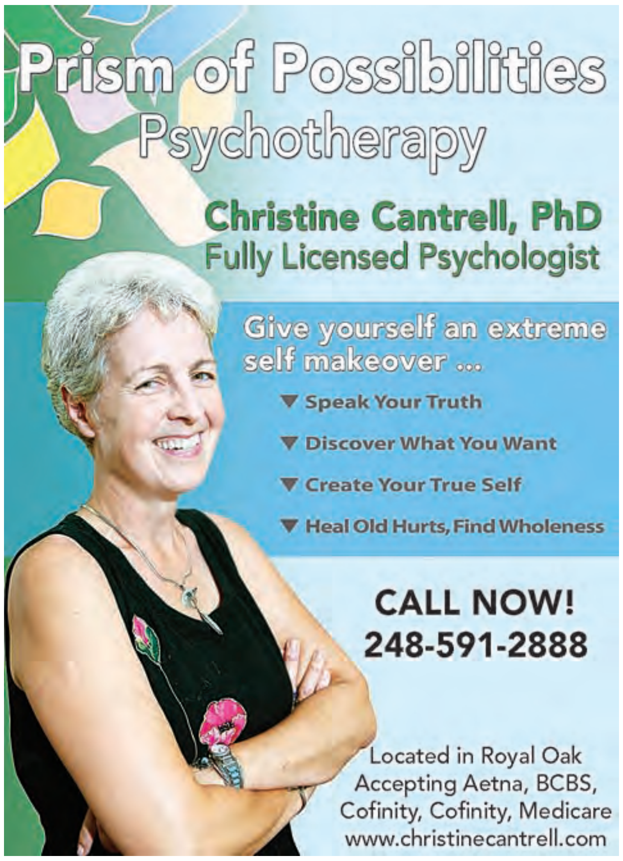

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FREE ONLINE
CHAT AND
CASE REVIEW

BTL Creep of the Week

Stacey Campfield

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Ah, yes. The joys of sex education. I think all of us have fond memories of that day in fifth or sixth grade when the boys got shuffled into one room, the girls in another. Filmstrips were watched & everyone got a little pamphlet called "Your Changing Body," or something like that.

Stacey Campfield

Then the teacher asks how many students are thinking about becoming gay and passes out, "So You Think You're Gay or Want to Be: Choosing Your Sexual Orientation," a step-by-step guide to becoming a fabulous member of the homosexual cabal.

As any gay person can attest, if it weren't for that pamphlet everyone would be heterosexual.

Sadly, there's a legislator in Tennessee who wants to do away with this time-honored tradition. Stacey Campfield, a Republican Senator from Knoxville, is the sponsor of a bill that seeks to essentially ban sex-ed teachers from discussing homosexuality in elementary and middle school.

Dubbed the "Don't Say Gay Bill," it passed the Senate on May 20 and is headed to the House.

The bill limits instruction "exclusively to age-appropriate natural human reproduction science."

And since gays can't reproduce and sure as hell aren't natural, no gays. End of story. Case closed. Problem solved. Amen.

According to the New York Daily News, the language of the bill was changed to make it a little less blatantly homophobic. The bill originally read that teachers couldn't "provide any instruction or material that discusses sexual orientation other than heterosexuality."

The bill that passed mandates that "any instruction or materials made available or provided at or to a public elementary or middle school shall be limited exclusively to natural human reproduction science."

The language change didn't bother Campfield, according to the Knoxville News Sentinel. "There's more than one way to skin a cat. This skins the cat, but doesn't scare them (other legislators) so much," Campfield said. "I got what I wanted."

And just what does he want?

Well, basically what Campfield will accomplish should this bill pass the House is a total eradication of homosexual Tennesseans in the generations to come, right?

No, of course not. What he aims to do is essentially write institutionalized homophobia into the state's sex ed curriculum.

"It means (teachers) can't talk about gay issues or sexuality even with students who may be gay or have (a) gay family," said Tennessee Equality Project's Ben Byers.

Yep. That sounds about right. Campfield wants Tennessee's kids to learn that homosexuality is such an awful, terrible thing that their teachers aren't even allowed to talk about it. Gay kids, gay parents, gay family members be damned.

> Campfield wants Tennessee's kids to learn that homosexuality is such an awful, terrible thing that their teachers aren't even allowed to talk about it.

The odd thing about this bill is how unnecessary it is. I mean, it's not like Tennessee is ground zero for Homo 101. The state already has an abstinence-only curriculum and it's a misdemeanor to deviate from that script. I suppose I don't even need to tell you that abstinence-only programs usually aren't exactly pro-gay.

It's also interesting to note that Campfield tried to get this bill passed when he was a member of the House. He failed. But he kept trying. For six years. Looks like someone's a little preoccupied with skinning gay cats.

Analysis: Gay marriage in NY hits stumbling blocks

Conservative, religious opposition strikes back against bill to legalize same-sex marriage

BY MICHAEL GORMLEY

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)– Just a couple of weeks ago, the momentum to legalize gay marriage in New York appeared to be an irresistible force, teed up to reinvigorate the flagging national effort. Gov. Andrew Cuomo said he would devote his popular clout and considerable power to guide the first unified effort by gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender advocates in the state to legalize same-sex marriage, and raise $1 million to support lawmakers who cast the dicey vote.

Since then, the conservative and religious opposition has struck back in a big, unexpected way.

Now the opposition has a $1.5 million fund of its own from a national group. There was even some shakiness in the ranks of gay marriage advocates, while Republican senators on the other side, rather than wilting, appear emboldened. A new "defense of marriage" bill has been introduced that wouldn't recognize gay marriages sealed in other states.

Opponents of gay marriage are also bolstered by defeats of similar bills this year in Maryland and Rhode Island. Same-sex marriage is legal in Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont and Washington, D.C., a list unchanged since New York's Senate rejected the measure in 2009 in a surprising blow to the national movement.

New Yorkers, according to the polls, are watching and may be wavering. And lawmakers – Senate Republicans the key among them – who would cast the potentially historic vote in the final four weeks of session are watching those polls closely.

A May 19 Siena College poll showed 52 percent of New York voters supported gay marriage, while opposition jumped to 42 percent. The margin of error for the poll was 3.4 percent. A month ago, support in the Siena poll was four points higher and opposition was six points lower. It was a rare setback in polls that for months have repeatedly shown growing support.

Among voters opposed to gay marriage in the poll, 60 percent said they would likely vote against their legislator if he or she votes the other way. Just 49 percent of supporters of gay marriage say they would be less likely to vote for their legislator if he or she opposed it.

"If I was advising a Republican senator right now, I would say to him or her, 'Vote your conscience,'" said Siena's Steven Greenberg. "Because if you vote for it or if you vote against it, there are political benefits and political liabilities."

A week ago, a NY1-YNN-Marist College poll posed the question differently. It gave the New Yorkers it questioned the option of supporting civil unions, a legal status less than marriage but which provides many or all of the financial and legal rights of traditionally married couples.

> "It doesn't matter what the heartfelt support is. It cannot pass without Republican votes."
>
> –Sen. Thomas Duane, D-Manhattan, about a bill to legalize same-sex marriage

That poll found 50 percent of New Yorkers supported gay marriage. Its margin of error was 4.5 percent. That apparent erosion of support from earlier Marist and other polls was likely in the 25 percent who supported civil unions, a much easier vote for lawmakers pushed by opponents as a compromise.

The posturing and pressure of the last two weeks, however, also yielded some hope for advocates.

Frank MacKay, the influential chairman of the state Independence Party, told The Associated Press last week that he personally supports gay marriage. He noted the state's third largest party opposes "discrimination and prejudice in all its myriad forms." That could counter pressure from state Conservative Party Chairman Michael Long, who said lawmakers voting for gay marriage won't carry his line.

For Republicans, each line is important to win in a state where Democrats hold a near 2-to-1 enrollment advantage.

And although two Republican senators signaled they are still mulling their position, that's still short of the 32 votes needed in the Republican-led Senate. In 2009, back when Democrats held the majority – in part thanks to gay marriage campaign funding – the issue was defeated 38-24.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo on his statewide "People First" tour in Hempstead, N.Y., on May 18. Cuomo has pledged support for a bill legalizing same-sex marriage, but the bill's support is wavering in light of conservative opposition. Photo from the governor's Flickr account.

Even Democratic Sen. Thomas Duane of Manhattan, the bill's sponsor, is frustrated.

Duane said even New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, the billionaire major contributor to the Senate GOP, hasn't moved any Republicans. In lobbying Tuesday in Albany for gay marriage, Bloomberg called the issue "one of the defining issues of our lifetime."

Shortly after, Senate Democratic leader John Sampson of Brooklyn predicted Republicans won't even let the bill go to the floor for a vote.

"It doesn't matter what the heartfelt support is," said Duane, the Legislature's first openly gay lawmaker. "It cannot pass without Republican votes ... yet none of them support my right to get married."

Three Republicans inside the tight Senate Republican conference said they see no changed votes, speaking to the AP on condition of anonymity because the conference hasn't debated gay marriage.

"I think what's happened is the advocates who are against gay marriage – or for marriage – have awoken," said Senate Deputy Majority Leader Thomas Libous, a Southern Tier Republican who supports civil unions for gay couples.

Libous is a co-sponsor with veteran Republican Sen. Martin Golden of Brooklyn of the bill that would stop New York from recognizing gay

See New York, page 17

Tenn. Senate OKs ban on teaching of homosexuality

'Don't say gay bill' likely to be voted on in 2012

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)– A bill passed May 20 by the Tennessee Senate would forbid public school teachers and students in grades kindergarten through eight from discussing the fact that some people are gay.

Opponents deride the measure as the "don't say gay bill." They say it's unfair to the children of gay parents and could lead to more bullying. Supporters say it is intended to give teachers clear guidance for dealing with younger children on a potentially explosive topic.

The bill isn't likely to be taken up by the House before lawmakers adjourn this spring, but the sponsor there has said he would push it forward in 2012 when the General Assembly comes back for the second year of the session.

Passage would make Tennessee the first state to enact such legislation, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. In 2003, Washington defeated a proposal similar to Tennessee's, as did California in 2005 and 2006. A Louisiana law forbids the use of sexually explicit materials depicting homosexuality in sex education classes.

Under the proposal, any instruction or materials at a public elementary or middle school would be limited to age-appropriate lessons about the science of human reproduction.

The legislation was amended from the original version, which said no elementary or middle schools will "provide any instruction or material that discusses sexual orientation other than heterosexuality." Republican Senate sponsor Stacey Campfield of Knoxville said some of his colleagues were uncomfortable with that language.

"There's more than one way to skin a cat," Campfield said after the vote. "I got what I wanted."

He said the language is appropriate because "homosexuals don't naturally reproduce," and he said it's necessary because the state's curriculum is unclear on what can be taught.

> If passed, Tennessee would be the first state to enact such legislation. Similar measures failed in Washington in 2003 and in California in 2005 and 2006.

However, a critic said the new wording could create other problems.

Sen. Roy Herron, D- Dresden, said it "may inadvertently prevent the teaching of ethics, morality and abstinence."

Stephen Smith, assistant commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Education, also said he's unaware of homosexuality being taught anywhere in the state. He said there is nothing in the state's curriculum standards that allows students to be taught about homosexuality.

► New York

Continued from p. 16

marriages from other states. The bill is also supported by Democratic Sen. Ruben Diaz Sr., a Bronx minister.

It was the latest example of stepped-up opposition:

– On Tuesday, May 17, a day after the National Organization for Marriage pledged $1.5 million to fight gay marriage, Cuomo said he wouldn't bring the issue to a vote unless he felt it would pass. Even some advocates saw that as weakness.

– Two days later, New York Archbishop Timothy Dolan issued an almost secular argument opposing gay marriage, in an understanding tone rare for the issue defined by polarized views.

– On May 17, one of the many smaller gay rights groups, Queer Rising, said Cuomo's effort appeared more like a "political stunt."

As for Cuomo, he said in a video message underscored by a statewide tour on ethics, gay marriage and other priorities that the Legislature "doesn't want real ethics reform." It was a switch from talking about a few corrupt politicians to smacking all of them with the same stick, just when he needs them to pass gay marriage.

That prompted Senate Republican leader Dean Skelos to note Cuomo was approaching the in-your-face tactics of former Gov. Eliot Spitzer. Even Democratic Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver said Cuomo's "People First" tour was "irrelevant" to getting issues done.

"I did say to him I was personally a little hurt," Libous said, echoing the sentiment of other senators. Libous said he's ashamed of corrupt officials, "but I'm not a crook. When you come after everybody, it doesn't help things."

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by Rex Wockner

St. Petersburg OKs gay demo, Moscow bans Pride again

With city approval, some 150 LGBT activists staged a "Rainbow Flashmob" in St. Petersburg, Russia, on May 17 in conjunction with the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia.

Organizers said it was the first time the city had "officially sanctioned" the event.

Anti-gay activists staged a smaller rally nearby. Police prevented them from making contact with the LGBT event.

Other IDAHO events were held in cities across Russia and worldwide.

In Moscow, meanwhile, city officials have rejected applications for the May 28 gay pride march, citing security concerns and a desire to protect minors.

Moscow Pride recently won a ruling from the European Court of Human Rights that previous years' bans by then-Mayor Yuri Luzhkov violated the European Convention on Human Rights in the areas of freedom of assembly and association, right to an effective remedy and prohibition of discrimination.

Gays have marched or staged other public actions yearly since 2005 despite the bans. The small gatherings were attacked by anti-gay hooligans, picketed by religious protesters and broken up by police.

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With city approval, some 150 LGBT activists staged a "Rainbow Flashmob" in St. Petersburg, Russia, on May 17 in conjunction with the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia. Photo courtesy of comingoutspb.ru/en.

Euro institutions mark IDAHO

Major European Union institutions issued statements and took other actions to commemorate the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia on May 17.

They included the European Parliament, the European Commission, the European Council, the European External Action Service, and the Fundamental Rights Agency. The only holdout was the Council of the European Union, currently chaired by Hungary.

May 17 is the day the World Health Organization decided 21 years ago that homosexuality isn't a mental illness.

"Homophobia is deplorable because it aims to denigrate people and deprive them of these rights on the basis of their sexual orientation," said European Parliament President Jerzy Buzek. "But as we celebrate the International Day Against Homophobia, we must also remember, which may be of special importance, that some people are not only deprived of their basic rights, but may be tortured and punished because of their sexual orientation. In some countries they may even face the death penalty. We have a duty to protect human rights wherever they are and in whatever form they take."

Gay sex is illegal in 76 nations. Laws allow for the death penalty in Iran, Mauritania, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Yemen, 12 Nigerian states, and parts of Somalia.

Montenegro gay concert tear-gassed

Assumedly anti-gay hooligans tear-gassed an International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia concert in Montenegro's capital, Podgorica, on May 17, according to the European Parliament's Intergroup on LGBT Rights.

The report said about half the audience dispersed and some people sought medical attention.

In response, pride organizers canceled the May 31 pride parade, which was to have been the nation's first.

"Today we saw firsthand the total lack of political will from national authorities to protect LGBT people and their supporters," said MEP Ulrike Lunacek, co-president of the Intergroup. "As Montenegro further progresses as a candidate to join the European Union, all its citizens must be protected and respected by authorities."

The vice-chair of the European Parliament's Delegation to South East Europe, Jelko Kacin, added: "It is deeply regrettable that the first gay pride parade in the country should be canceled due to authorities' failure to unequivocally support the parade ... Today, Montenegro failed to demonstrate that it wants to progress towards EU accession equally fast in all areas. Respect, protection and promotion of minority rights are a quintessential part of our common European values."

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Thursday, June 16, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.

Celebrating our Diverse Community Through Story and Song
Monday, June 20, 2011 - 7:00 p.m.

Jewish Community Center
6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield

For questions about this series, or to purchase tickets, please contact **Judy Lewis** at 248) 432-5661 or jlewis@jccdet.org

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SUNDAY 6.05

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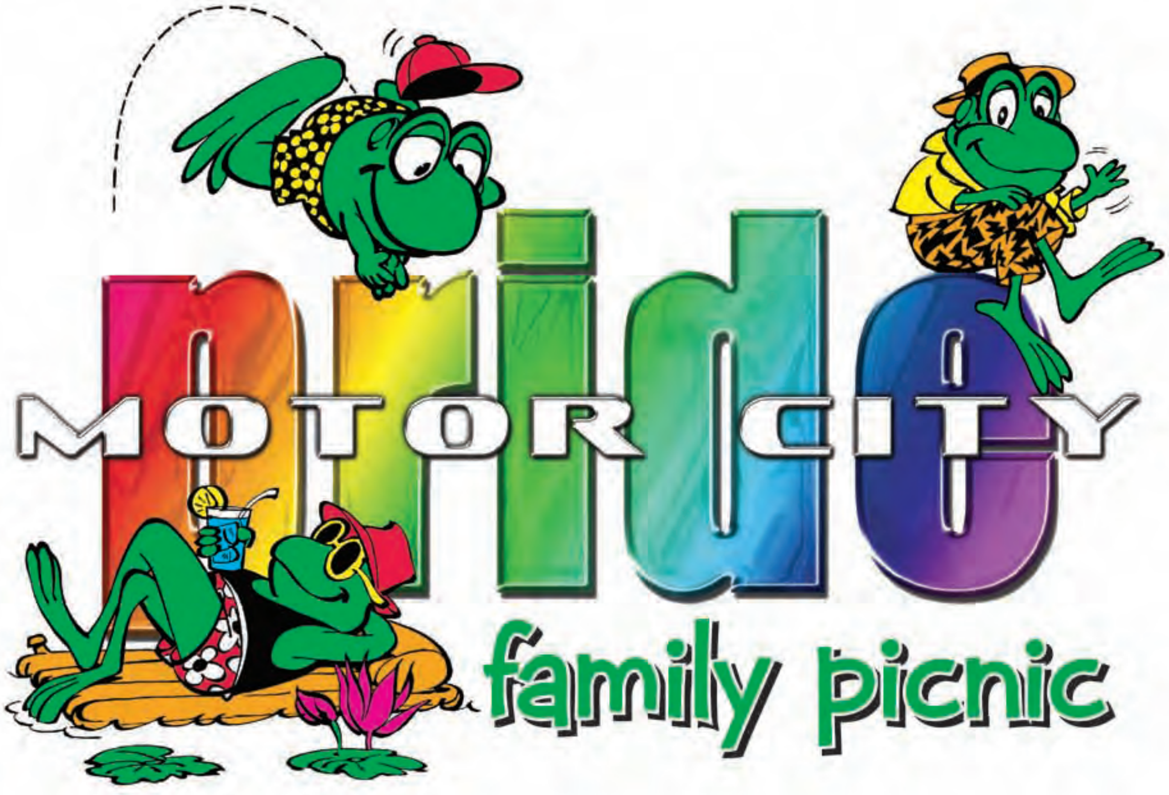
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Family Area

Saturday, June 4, 2011
3:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, June 5, 2011
12:00 to 6:00 p.m.
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2011
MOTOR CITY PRIDE
HarT OF PriDe

Festival Schedule
Saturday, June 4, 2011

Noon – 2:00 p.m. Family Picnic

2:00 – 10:00 p.m. Festival Activities

Main Stage
Festival Stage
Pyramid Stage
Underground Dance Area
Beverage Sales
Vendors and Exhibits
History Area
Community Room

3:00 – 7:00 p.m. Family Area

10:00 p.m. After Party at Flat 151

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Sunday, June 5, 2011

9:30 a.m.	Parade Line-up
10:00 a.m.	Worship Service, MCC Detroit
Pyramid Stage	
11:00 a.m.	Parade Step-off (Griswold Street)
Noon — 7:00 p.m.	Festival Activities

Main Stage
Festival Stage
Pyramid Stage
Underground Dance Area
Beverage Sales
Vendors and Exhibits
History Area
Community Room
Family Area

1:00 p.m.	Commitment
7:00 p.m.	Boat Ride Aft
	(Ticket sales at www

Main Stage
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Saturday, June 4, 2011

2:00 p.m.	Black Pride S
4:10 p.m.	Diva's
5:10 p.m.	Drag Show
6:10 p.m.	Eva
6:30 p.m.	Kimberly Col
7:00 p.m.	Kerli
7:30 p.m.	Alexis Jordan

Sunday, June 5, 2011

11:00 a.m.	DJG33KDOU
1:00 p.m.	Equality Mich Equality Pride Sing Out Det
1:30 p.m.	Commitment
2:30 p.m.	Drag Show
3:30 p.m.	Invincible
4:10 p.m.	Killer Flaming
5:10 p.m.	Goddess & S
6:10 p.m.	Erika Jayne
6:40 p.m.	Chris Willis

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Society Programming

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The Underground Dance Area

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Saturday, June 4

3:00 PM	DJ Mark
4:00 PM	Stacey Hotwaxx Hale
5:00 PM	DJ Irene
6:30 PM	DJ Jace
7:30 PM	Perry Twins
9:00 PM	Dave Aude

Sunday, June 5

Noon	Tom T / AD Cruz
1:00 p.m.	John Cruz
2:00 p.m.	DJ Hardy
3:00 p.m.	Joe Bermudez
4:00 p.m.	Josh Karmin
5:00 p.m.	Mike Trom
6:00 p.m.	Cazwell

Additional Entertainment

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Doggie Drag
Joan Stevenson
Steve Reeder
Fundalmentalists
Eva (Tom T)
Country Music Dancing
Mike C
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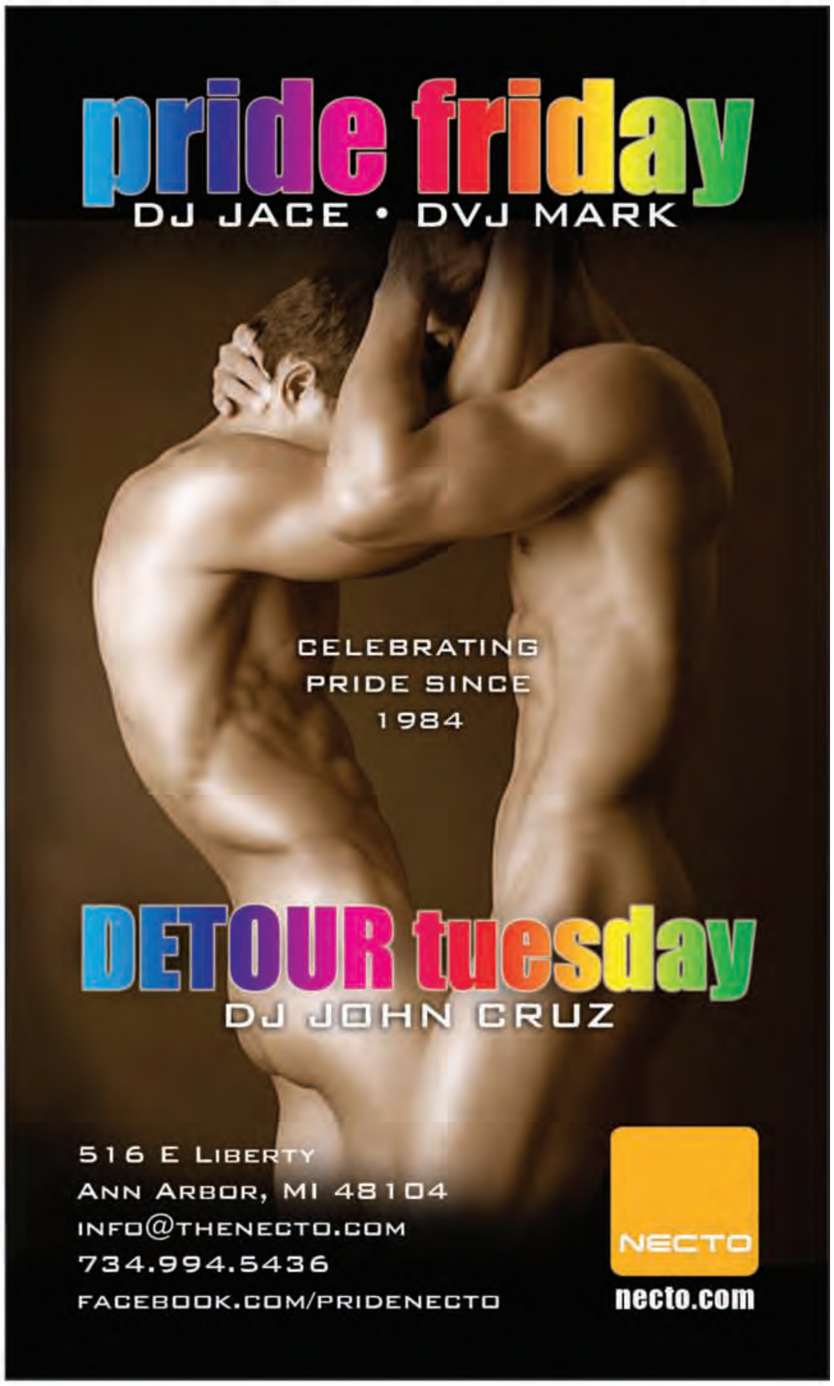

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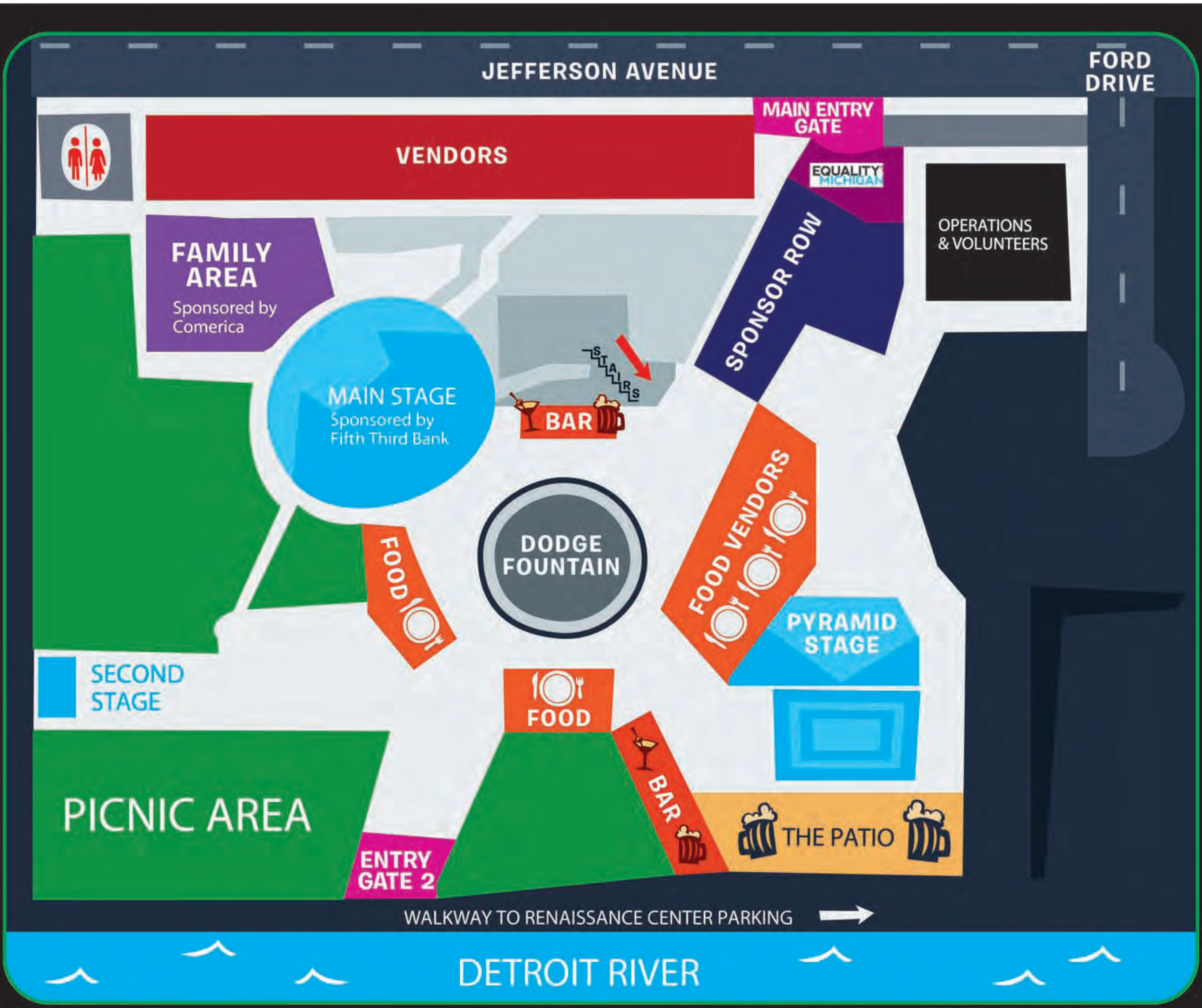
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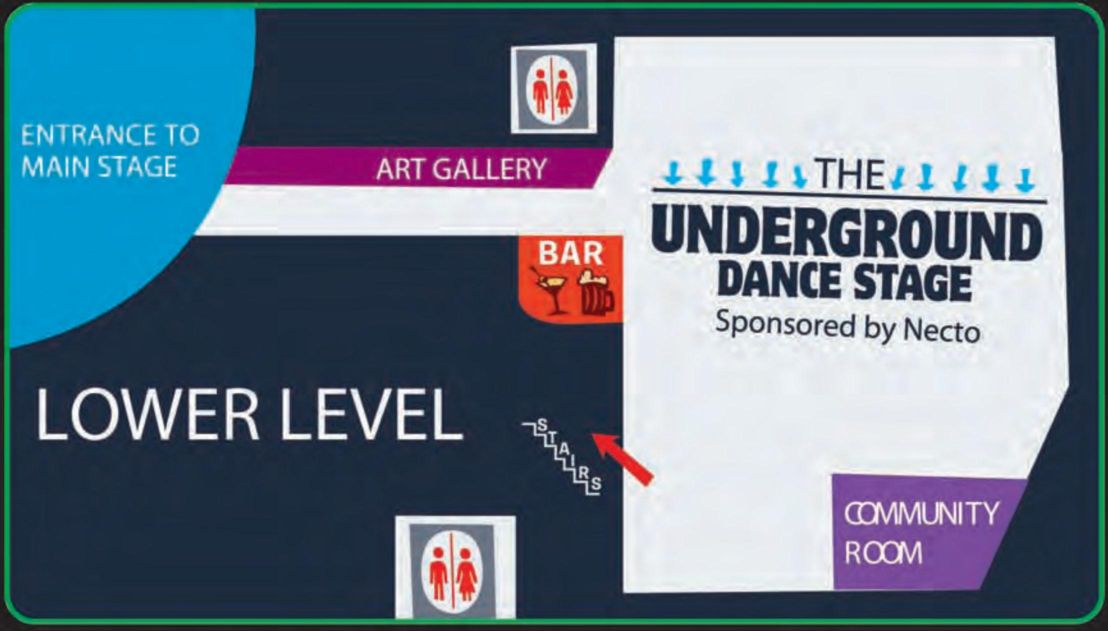
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Still Jammin'

Photo: Andrew Potter

Movement performer John Collins on the musical energy that defined a decade

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

So what if the music sucks. “If you’re on ecstasy, anything sounds good,” says John Collins, who’s comparing the era his career was born out of – the ’80s – to what we’re hearing now.

Then, when the native was a budding mainstay on the Detroit music scene, the productions were more solid and had more soul. That’s what Collins misses most – and what he’ll play during his 5 p.m. May 29 gig at the Movement Electronic Music Festival at Detroit’s Hart Plaza (look for him on the Made-in-Detroit stage).

It’s Collin’s third time spinning at the iconic techno showcase (after stints in 2002 and 2005), where dance nuts sweep in from all across the globe to experience a three-day, 36-hour marathon of music on four stages with more than 70 electronic music artists and DJs.

“I don’t necessarily always agree with the lineups,” says Collins, who lives in Detroit, “but it’s a good thing for the city and it exposes more people to underground electronic, techno and house music.”

After all, Detroit is where that very type of beat-heavy sound was born. Collins says, “I would even venture that the people who created house were gay. I mean, think about it: Most music came out of gay clubs.”

Collins has played in some of them – like the now-defunct ’80s hotspot Heaven and, currently, Menjo’s – but his biggest DJ residency was at Cheeks, a legendary Detroit club that hired him in 1986.

“What I liked about Cheeks was that it was very eclectic – it was black, it was white, it was straight, it was gay,” he says, “and house music was just really starting at that time. The people there were more progressive in the music that they heard, because the music that we played wasn’t necessarily what was on the radio.

“There were so many good nights at Cheeks,” Collins recalls. “That was just a really special time in Detroit. That energy can never be reproduced.”

Even with many musical family members, John Collins’ first career choice wasn’t music at all. It was science. He majored in biology at Wilberforce University in Ohio, the nation’s oldest private, historically black college, where he was also an activity coordinator.

“If a band didn’t show up, I was to play records on this portable DJing equipment they had,” he says. “That was my first introduction, and it sparked my interest.”

A young female DJ at a Detroit club sent his passion into flames. “If she can do it,” he thought, “so can I.” He bought all sorts of records. He taught himself some tricks. And then he became DJ John Collins.

Movement

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“I never dreamed it would be a career,” he says. “I just thought maybe it was a hobby, but it was a hobby that turned into a job that became quite rewarding.”

And one that’s run the gamut, from DJing worldwide to reporting on music for Billboard magazine. In 1993, Collins was a mix show DJ for WJLB FM 98, where he was coined Jammin’ by the late legendary Detroit radio personality Chris McClendon (even nearly 20 years later, the name, he says, still sticks). Five years later, Collins headed to WDRQ FM 93.1.

But his musicianship extends outside of the Motor City, too – all the way from Chicago to London and Japan.

“I DJed a lot of straight clubs, and then the word got out that I was gay,” he says. “If you have women hitting on you and you don’t respond, of course they assume you’re gay.”

But Collins, who knew something was up when he was in elementary school, was very out about it since the ’80s. There was no shame, no closet.

“I’d tell them: ‘This is the way I am. I don’t consider myself any different than you. I’m just gay. I love men.’

“When I meet people today, it’s really funny, because I play a number of house music parties for straight people and when I tell people I’m gay, they’re like, ‘You’re gay?! I had no idea.’ I say, ‘Tell me how a gay person’s supposed to look and act?’ At that point they stereotype. And I’m just me. I’m John, and I just happen to love men.”

And, of course, make music.

After releasing two old-school, gospel-house singles last year, “All We Need” and “Yeah,” Collins is working on a project with his brother, Dennis – a house mix of Donny Hathaway’s “Little Ghetto Boy,” one of his sibling’s favorites.

Dennis, an accomplished singer who lives in Connecticut, hob-knobs with all the big shots in the music industry, and he’s been John’s “in” over the years. He hooked him up to play the birthday parties of R&B icons Luther Vandross and Jocelyn Brown. Collins has also done Aretha Franklin’s.

“I never pigeonholed myself,” he says. “House music is my favorite, don’t get me wrong, but I could probably play for almost anybody. My career now is really focused on electronic and house, and that’s what I prefer to play, but sometimes” – he breaks off, laughing – “you have to play other gigs to pay the bills.”

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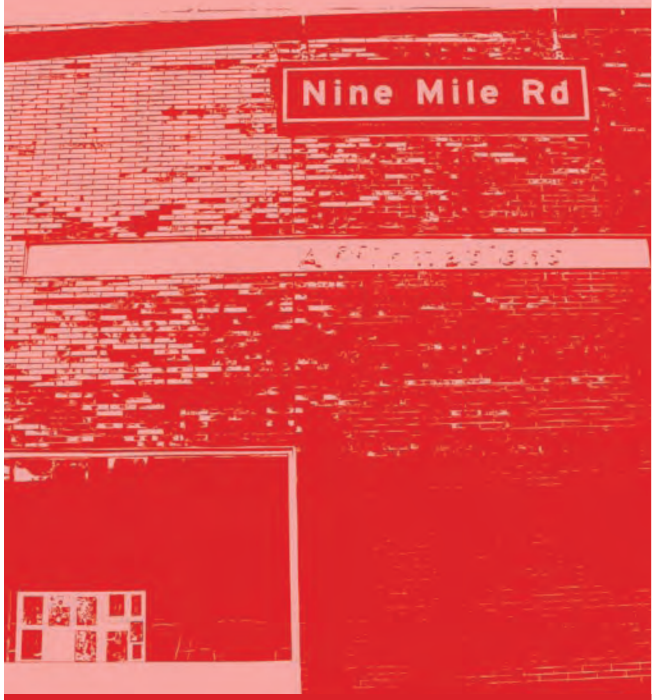

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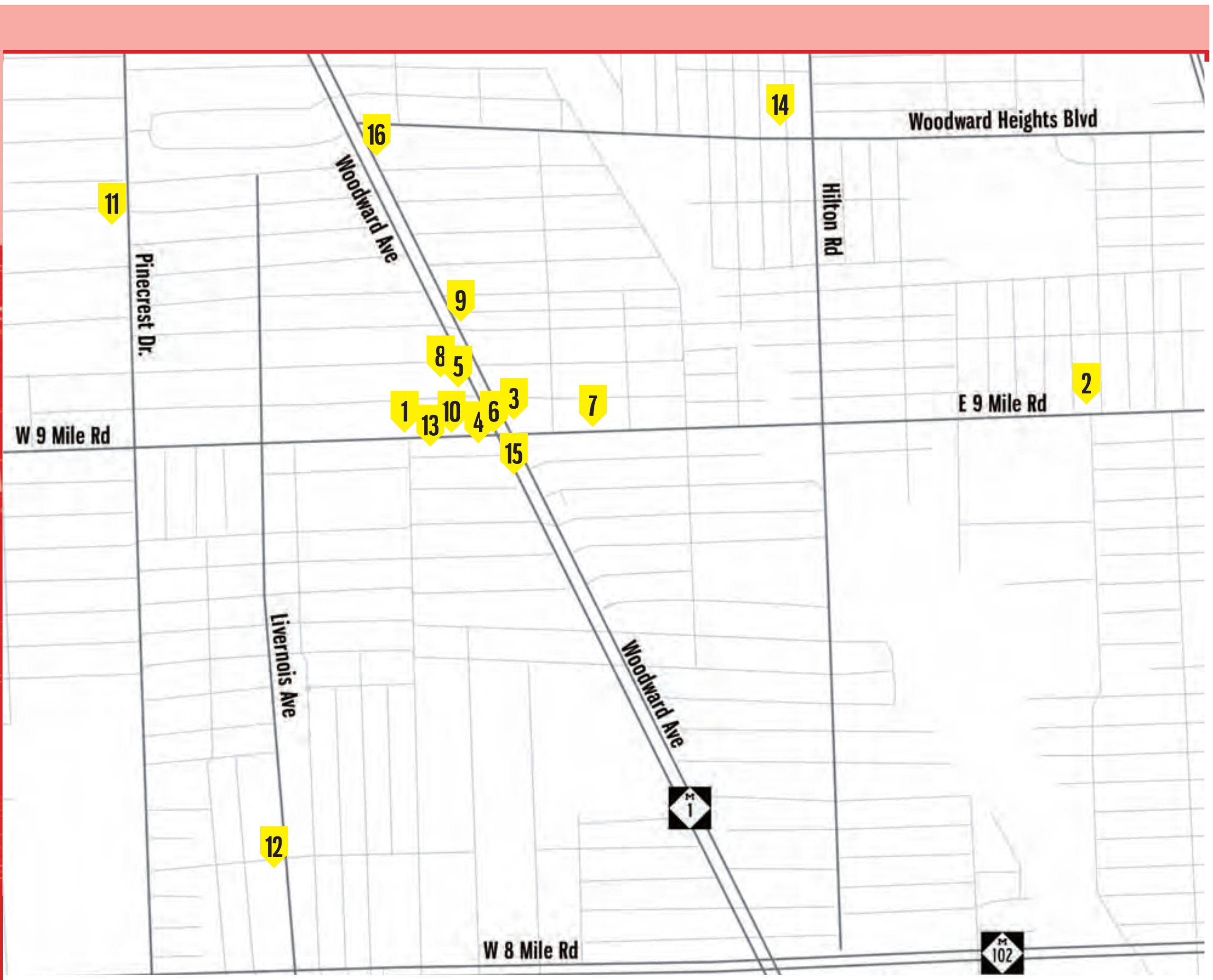

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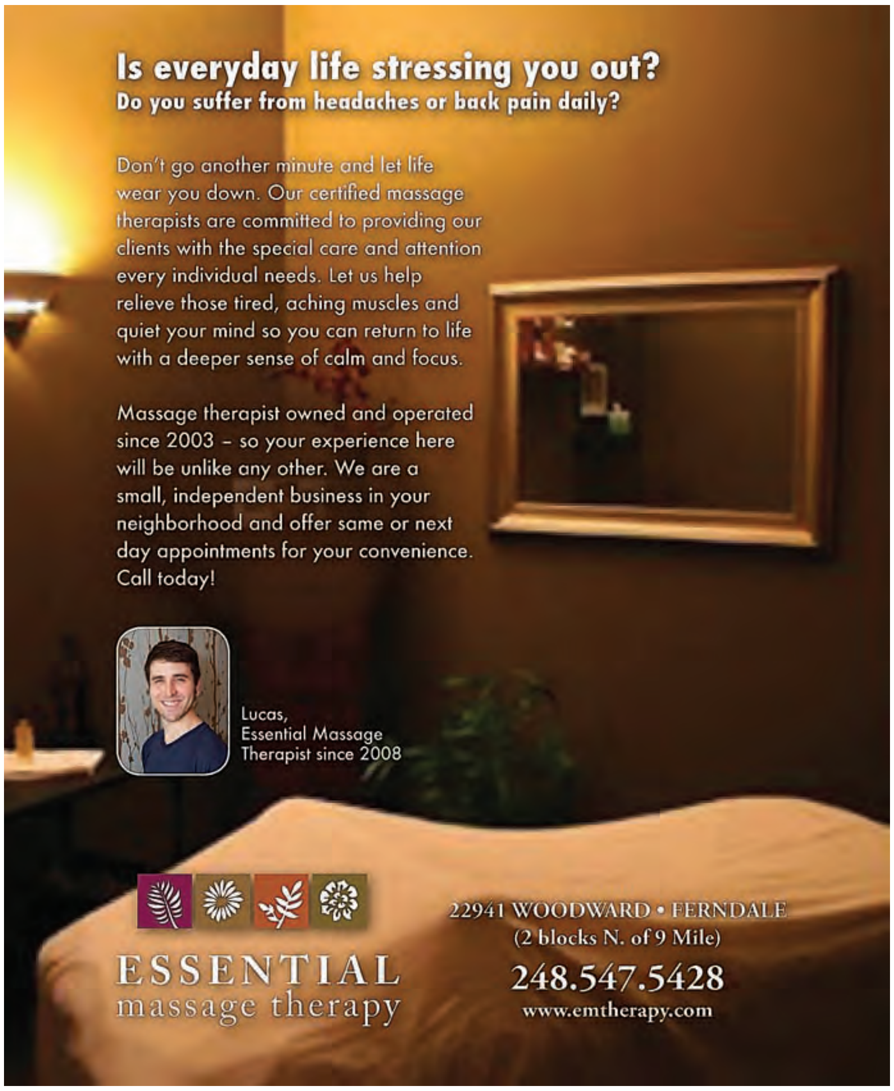

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Ferndale Pride

Residents, organizations and community leaders of Ferndale have planned a series of events to both complement and supplement Motor City Pride's Hart Plaza festivities on Friday, June 3 and early Saturday, June 4.

Volunteers for Ferndale Pride have organized both a parade and march for June 3, while businesses, restaurants and pubs provide various themed parties throughout the downtown area. June 4, the Southeast Michigan Dyke March hosts its second annual Dyke March through Ferndale prior to Motor City Pride's entertainment lineup taking stage.

In an effort to permit Ferndale citizens to attend both Ferndale Pride and Motor City Pride, local Ferndale restaurant Rosie O' Grady's will provide a shuttle service on June 4 to and from the two festivals.

Ferndale will host a weekend of activities June 3 to compliment Motor City Pride. This year MCP will be held in Detroit at Hart Plaza June 4 and June 5. See motorcitypride.org for details. BTL file photo 2010.

Rosie O' Grady's Shuttle to Hart Plaza

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Final shuttle to Hart Plaza, 7:30 p.m.
Final shuttle to Rosie O Grady's, 8:45 p.m.

Pride Events

Friday, June 3

We are Family Parade, 6 p.m. Withington Lot alley behind Affirmations, Ferndale.

GLBT & Allies Pep Rally, 7:30 p.m. In front of Ferndale City Hall, Ferndale.

Illuminating Our Diversity, 9 p.m. Night March beginning in Withington Lot alley behind Affirmations, Ferndale.

Alley/Patio Parties, 6 p.m.-2 a.m. Downtown pubs and restaurants including but not limited to Como's, Dino's Danny's with Metro Detroit Softball League, Rosie's, Soho/StoneWall, Loving Touch, and Sneaker's, Ferndale.

Saturday, June 4

2nd Annual Dyke March, 2 p.m. Beginning in Withington Lot alley, ending in a rally at Geary Park. After party at 9 p.m., Rosie O Grady's 279 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale.

Friday, June 17-27

Be sure to save the dates and find your way to the Ringwald Theatre with GPS. The Gay Play Series returns for the second year with a longer, exciting run. The original One-Act Festival kicks off Friday, June 17 at 8 p.m. and includes nine new plays presented in two blocks over the 10-day festival.

Visit www.whowantscaketheatre.com or call 248-545-5545.

Watch for a the story in next week's Pride issue of BTL.

SE Dyke March on June 4

The Southeast Michigan Dyke March, an event with the goal of promoting visibility of the area's lesbian, transgender, bisexual, and queer community, will be held Saturday, June 4 at 2 p.m. in downtown Ferndale. This event also aims to respond to male-focused pride events and create a safe space for Michigan's LGBTQ community.

The march is part of a worldwide movement that strives to promote lesbian visibility and inclusion. The word "dyke" is used to identify with other dyke marches within the movement, with sensitivity to the word's negative origins.

The second annual march and rally is a family-friendly, all-inclusive event, so everyone is welcome to march. Line-up starts in the Withington parking lot (on the northwest corner of Nine Mile and Woodward) beginning at 1 p.m. The rally will be held at Geary Park beginning at 3 p.m., and will feature LGBTQ interest entertainment. For more information, visit www.semidykemarch.org.

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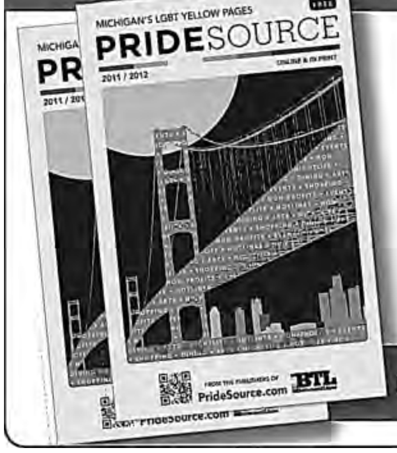

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by Chris Azzopardi

Not feeling the ‘Love?’ on Jennifer Lopez’s new album. Plus: Matthew Morrison’s so-so solo CD

Jennifer Lopez, ‘Love?’

On her first album in four years, J.Lo isn’t waiting for tonight – it’s already here. There’s debaucherous drinking and dancing on the hyper-slamming first single “On the Floor,” leaning on the European dance craze with a shallow mind-taking melody that’s cut with laser synths and Ibiza beats. It’s totally ridiculous, especially Pitbull’s cheesy rap, but so are the best (of the worst) songs on the album – like “Papi,” an all-out house/trance track with a Latin vibe, and the vague-but-appropriately-titled “Invading My Mind.” But La Lopez is late to the party, and the actress/“singer”/“American Idol”-judge-with-a-heart follows more trends than she makes with songs that sound 10 years tardy. Everything about “Love?” is so safe it’s snoozy, from the cloned cuts to Lopez’s flat delivery (see: out-of-range “One Love”), and too superficial to compensate for its datedness, even with power producers Tricky Stewart and RedOne. And having Gaga pitch in “Hypnotico” only does J.Lo an injustice, begging one question: How much better would it be coming out of Mother Monster’s mouth? For someone who’s consistently boasted about her realness, the only time she’s Jenny from the block is on the mid-tempo saved-by-love song “Until It Beats No More.” It’s that authentic charm the rest of the album needs. Without it, “Love?” does come at a cost – ours. *Grade: C-*

MATTHEW MORRISON

Matthew Morrison, ‘Matthew Morrison’

Being the hot teacher on a hit show has its advantages – you can record an album, and people will listen. Just ask Matthew Morrison, the affable Mr. Schuester on “Glee.” The Broadway star’s first solo CD sticks close to the series’ compilations, a frothy concoction of cheesy and tender that goes down easy. So easy, in fact, that after it’s down, it’s gone. Only a few tracks have staying power, and those all boast big names – he mashes up two Elton John songs, “Rocket Man” and “Mona Lisas and Mad Hatters,” with the man himself; sings with Sting on his “Let Your Soul be Your Pilot”; and gets Gwyneth Paltrow for the exhausted ukulele version of “Somewhere Over the Rainbow.” It’s when Morrison, who never quite proves his pop artistry on this jumbled mishmash, is free to roam on his own that we’re left with, well, not much. Despite the breezy cuteness of “Summer Rain,” a Jason Mraz wannabe, Morrison’s likable, pure-as-rain tenor can’t ignite this fireless fare. So we get songs like “It’s Over,” too musical-theater for mainstream, and the tween-leaned, synth-swathed “Don’t Stop Dancing,” a horribly embarrassing keep-on-keepin’-on that recalls his days in a boy band. Someone’s gonna hafta do some extra credit. *Grade: C+*

Also Out

Sade, ‘The Ultimate Collection’

Two whole discs and no condom? Since 1984, the smooth-operating chanteuse has romanticized our sexual romps with her songs – and 29 of them are here, from career-staple “No Ordinary Love” to last year’s “Soldier of Love” single. “By Your Side,” one of the English group’s timeless best, is included in its original form and with a Neptunes remix. And of the four new recordings, all which slip in nicely to the set, the beautiful gem “Still in Love with You” is yet another example of why we’re still in love with this class act.

Kylie Minogue, ‘North American Tour EP’

Oh, Kylie – you’re such a tease. To hype her summer tour, the showgirl’s latest release – a digital-only, five-song taste – is live takes from a New York gig (“Better Than Today” and “Confide in Me”) and a semi-acoustic setting. Hearing her strip down during her biggest hit, “Can’t Get You Out of My Head,” is an equally-as-sexy but dreamier lullaby. She does the same with two songs from her last studio release, 2010’s “Aphrodite”: “Get Outta My Way” and “All the Lovers,” beautifully built with piano and strings. Nevermind, Kylie. Tease away.

Reach Chris Azzopardi at chris@pridesource.com.

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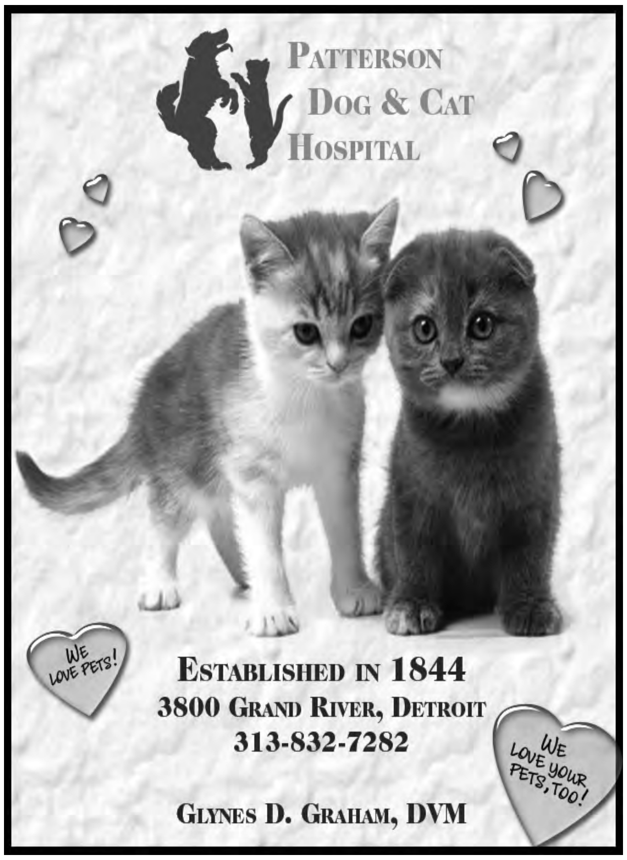
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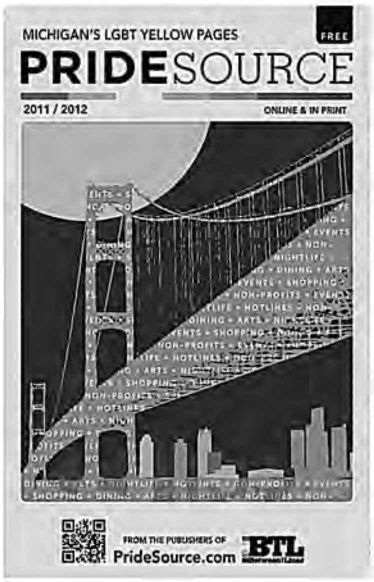

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La Bouche

Burlesque troupe promises Lady Gaga, Adam and Eve at Stiletto's

BY HANNAH SCHWAB

Randy Bouche and his traveling troupe are changing the definition of burlesque.

"When people think 'burlesque,' they think erotic," he says. "We have a very sexy, fun edge, but we aren't offensive. Our goal is to entertain, not shock, the audience."

Bouche is no stranger to the stage. He's been making the rounds in the theater and club circuit, performing solo acts since the late 1980s and traveling the country with his one-man show – an act full of comedy, song-and-dance, puppet work and celebrity impersonations. He's been Barbra Streisand, Peg Bundy, Pee-wee Herman and the Church Lady from "Saturday Night Live." Bouche's work earned him the Outstanding Talent Award for his puppetry in the 1991 National Miss USA Gay competition.

"The solo act was a lot of fun," Bouche says. "But there were so many (skits) I wanted to do that would have worked better with a group."

And so "Chez Bouche: A Dance-Comedy Revue" was born.

The end product of a year's worth of brainstorming and planning, this fun-filled comedy-variety show features updated versions of acts from Bouche's one-man show and new acts that incorporate his talented cast. Think sketch comedy – but with dance numbers, puppetry and a little magic.

"It sounds weird, but it's like a contemporary vaudeville, and the crowds love it," he says.

Bouche debuted his new act in November 2010 to a cheering crowd, and a "tremendous" response. The troupe is touring the Midwest, entertaining bar and theater crowds in Indiana, Illinois, Ohio and Wisconsin. They'll stop in Michigan on June 10 at Stiletto's in Inkster. He is working closely with club owner Alana Faulk to promote the show.

"Previously, Stiletto's hosted a burlesque show that was pretty raunchy," Bouche says. "It offended the regulars. So we have been working to revamp the advertising to show everyone we are fun and sexy without crossing that line."

New acts have been added to the lineup based on the individual talents his new crew brings to the stage. "We have a girl who looks a lot like Nicole Kidman," he says. "So we dress her up like the character from 'Moulin Rouge' and she sings 'Sparkling Diamonds.'"

Whether it's a Nicole Kidman look-alike or a vaudevillian puppeteer, the acts draw cheers and applause.

"Lady Gaga is one of our most popular acts. 'Telephone' is a song the crowd can sing along to and the puppet that fills in for Beyoncé adds a comedic twist.

"Adam and Eve is another staple for us. We have Adam, Eve, God and the serpent act out a skit, but then we redo it with a little twist. The actors come back out on stage and we ask the audience what the scene would have been like if Adam was gay and Eve was a lesbian."

While his acts involve a lot of stage makeup and characters in drag, Bouche doesn't limit his venues to just straight bars or gay clubs. He will perform anywhere with a stage.

"Our acts are not solely about 'gay' or 'straight,'" Bouche says. "We have guys in drag and have gay skits, but it is mostly about the comedic aspect."

And, you know, Lady Gaga.

'Eleemosynary' is filled with charity

BY BRIDGETTE M. REDMAN

REVIEW

Eleemosynary

Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam Rd., Williamston. Thursday-Sunday through June 12. $18-$24. 517-655-7469.

www.williamstontheatre.org

There is little more difficult in life to interpret than a mother-daughter relationship. It is an unwritten history from a war in which there is no victor to claim the rights of telling the tale. Playwright Lee Blessing portrays the intricacies of these relationships so well it's hard to fathom that he's never been in one himself. Perhaps, though, it takes an observer to capture the authenticity of all parties fairly.

As challenging as Williamston Theatre's "Eleemosynary" is to pronounce or spell, those tasks are child's play compared to the difficulty and depth of the relationships between Dorothea, Artemis and Echo. They are a trio of strong-willed women whose need for independence means they spend much of their lives regretting the harm they've done to each other.

Not that these are cruel women. In the hands of Julia Glander (Dorothea), Rebecca Covey (Artie/Artemis) and Michelle Meredith (Echo), these three women are so sympathetic it hurts to watch them as they scar each other in an attempt to survive with their own person intact. There is resentment and misunderstanding, but there is also love and determination.

What is it that causes them to do such harm to each other? For a mother to smother her daughter who in turn abandons her daughter? For a daughter to shove her mother away and look with shame upon her eccentricity, while the daughter of the next generation blackmails her elders to force them back together? Eleemosynary. Charity. The giving of alms. Each of them, by trying so desperately to provide what they think the other needs, fails to see the real need.

Three generations of extraordinary women: Rebecca Covey, Julia Glander and Michelle Meredith in "Eleemosynary" at the Williamston Theatre. Photo: Chris Purchis

To read the complete review, log on to ...
www.EncoreMichigan.com or PrideSource.com

TPT's 'Crimes' guilty of stealing hearts

BY JOHN QUINN

REVIEW

Crimes of the Heart

Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E. Cady St., Northville. Thursday-Sunday through June 25. $28-$30. 248-347-0003.

www.tippingpointtheatre.com

"When life hands you lemons, make lemonade" is such a chestnut I expected it might eventually sum up the theme of one play or another. What I didn't expect was to see an actress actually make lemonade on stage. We're not talking "from concentrate" here, friends. We're talking real lemons (you know – that thing hanging off your Long Island Iced Tea), water, ice cubes and sugar. It is these touches of verisimilitude that make "Crimes of the Heart" at Tipping Point Theatre a thoroughly believable experience. The naturalistic approach to the tribulations of the Megrath girls evokes the ghost of Anton Chekhov, but these ain't your Three Sisters. "Crimes" is a character-driven classic, with abounding humor to heal the hurts.

Beth Henley's tragi-comedy first hit the boards in 1979 at the Actors Theatre of Louisville, where it had been named co-winner of the Great American Play Contest. Moving on the New York City, it won the 1981 Pulitzer for Drama and the New York Drama Critics Circle Award for Best American Play.

Lenny Megrath (Hallie B. Bard) is celebrating her largely overlooked 30th birthday with a candle in a cookie. She's a spinster, caring for the grandfather who took the girls in after their mother's suicide. Old Granddaddy is presently in the hospital, but there's no rest for Lenny. Her sister, Babe (Maggie Meyer), has just shot her politician husband because she "didn't like his looks." She's berated by her social-climbing cousin, Chick Boyle (Sonja Marquis), who never lets the Megraths forget their shameful past.

Inga R. Wilson, Maggie Meyer and Hallie B. Bard in Tipping Point Theatre's "Crimes of the Heart." Photo: Howard and Charlotte Meyer

To read the complete review, log on to ...
www.EncoreMichigan.com or PrideSource.com

Dorsey tickles with Ann Landers' tales

BY BRIDGETTE M. REDMAN

REVIEW

The Lady With All the Answers

Stormfield Theatre, 201 Morgan Lane, Lansing. Thursday-Sunday through June 5. $18-$24. 517-372-0945.

www.stormfieldtheatre.org

One of the biggest challenges to doing a solo show is that no one can help when something goes wrong. So Diane Dorsey discovered during the Saturday night performance of Stormfield Theatre's "The Lady With All the Answers." While she stayed perfectly in character and came up with a lovely excuse, it's hard to convince an audience that an extended absence of the play's only character from the stage is part of the script.

Things were slightly off kilter for a time after that, with sound cues responding slowly and Dorsey losing some of the energy that she had shown earlier. However, she did recover, and by the end of the show was delivering a heartfelt performance evoking tears and laughter in almost equal amounts.

"The Lady With All the Answers" is an exploration of the life of Eppie Lederer, known much better as Ann Landers, the daily columnist who dispensed advice for just shy of 50 years. It's a delightful retrospective for those who remember reading her in the newspaper as she admonished people to stay married, explained how to hang toilet paper and took the pulse of a generation of 60 million readers. More than that, it is a look at a slice of life, an Americana that was not all sweet and innocent. It is a look at the turmoil of the times through the typewriter of one chronicler.

Eppie Lederer became Ann Landers in 1955, and when the play opens in the mid-'70s, Lederer is struggling with a column she clearly doesn't want to write.

Diane Dorsey stars as columnist Ann Landers in Stormfield Theatre's "The Lady With All the Answers." Photo: Sandra Debnar

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BTL Happenings

Editor's Picks

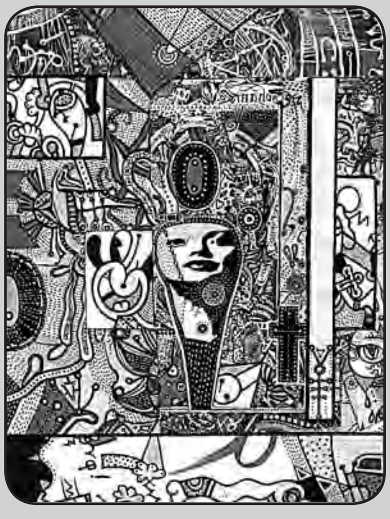
Outings

UNDER THE POPPY

Queer for Books, Ferndale Public Library's new LGBT book club, will host a benefit evening for the library. The organization presents cocktails, appetizers, live music and a Victorian punk costume theme on June 3 at Blumz by JR Designs. The event, titled "An Evening Under the Poppy," will also host a meet-and-greet with Kathe Koja, author of the critically acclaimed book "Under the Poppy," a story of two men in love and war.

All proceeds benefit the Queer for Books Collection at the library, and ticket stubs can be used at the event's afterparty at Menjo's that evening. The benefit begins at 6:30 p.m. at 503 E. Nine Mile Road in Ferndale. Tickets are $30 in advance at the Ferndale Public Library and Blumz, or $40 at the door. For more information, search Facebook for "An Evening Under the Poppy."

Art 'n' Around



In honor of Charles Alexander's 75th birthday, the Scarab Club, one of Detroit's oldest art venues, is hosting a solo exhibit of his work, titled "Benedictions, Blessing, Bombast."

Alexander has been a fixture in both the Detroit art and LGBT scenes for decades. His work has been featured in Between The Lines numerous times, as well as the Detroit Free Press, Ann Arbor News, Metro Times, Metra and Cruise. Through activism and artistry, Alexander has also raised tens of thousands of dollars for human rights, AIDS and LGBT causes.

"Benedictions, Blessing, Bombast" exhibits in the lounge gallery of the Scarab Club's second floor until June 25. Scarab Club is located at 217 Farnsworth in Detroit. For more information, visit scarabclub.org.

Theater

Redbud Productions presents the Tony-nominated, Pulitzer Prize-winning play "Rabbit Hole" by David Lindsay-Abaire. The acclaimed play, the basis for the Oscar-nominated film starring Nicole Kidman, is a bittersweet, humor-filled drama of finding hope in difficult times.

Becca (Emily Rogers) and Howie (Dave Barker) have everything a young, suburban couple could want – a great marriage, a beautiful house – until a sudden accident turns their world upside down and leaves the couple drifting perilously apart.

Jenny Pritchett, Loretta Grimes and Pat Grimes are also featured in this outstanding work. Come and see what some say is the best play of the decade.

Performances are June 2-5 at Riverside Arts Center, 76 North Huron St., in Ypsilanti. Curtain times are 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday and 2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. Tickets are $18 for adults; $15 for students and seniors. For more information, call 734-663-7167.

OUTINGS

Wednesday, May 25

Caring Caregiver, 6:30 p.m. A support group for anyone who is caring for someone with Alzheimer's or dementia. This group is open to family, friends, spouses and partners. Everyone is welcome Alzheimer's Association and Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-996-1053. goaffirmations.org

LGBTIQ Support Group, 7 p.m. An inclusive environment for all gender who are healing from domestic and/or sexual assault. YWCA of KGLRC, 629 Pioneer St., **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234.

Thursday, May 26

The Caregiver Support Group, 6 p.m. For more information please call or E-mail. Kalamazoo Gay Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer Street, **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234. kglrc.org

Friday, May 27

Womyn's Film Night, 6:30 p.m. Film:Girl Seeks Girl. This hot and hilarious lesbian soap opera is a wild ride through the mixed up love lives of a group of sexy Madrid lesbians. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org

Saturday, May 28

Drag Queen Bingo, 8 p.m. "This ain't your grandma's bingo." Hosts Sabin, Trixie Deluxxe or September Murphy. Open to all 18+. Refreshments and bingo food fare. Reservations available by phone. Five15, 515 S. Washington , **Royal Oak**. 248-515-2551. five15.net

Sunday, May 29

The Very Best (So Far) of Outrageous, 10:30 a.m. Returning performances of Lucy and D'neshewa, drag queen dynamic duo. Extravagant sets and outrageous performances. Rainbow Room, 6640 E. Eight Mile Road, **Detroit**. 313-891-1020. clubrainbowroom.com

Lezread, 4 p.m. Ann Arbors book group for Lesbians. Meets the last Sunday of every month. Lezread, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734-678-2478. lezread@yahoo.com

HARC provided HIV/AIDS Testing, 5 p.m. HARC provides anonymous and free HIV counseling, testing and referral services through its outreach at the Jim Toy Community Center. HARC, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734-678-2478. hivaidsresource.org/hiv-testing

Monday, May 30

Mid-Michigan Transgender, 6 p.m. The group offers an informal gathering, taking a more 'light-hearted' approach to allow transgenders in the Tri-City area an opportunity to connect with one another for socializing and support. Perceptions, 5789 State St., **Saginaw**. 989-598-6566. perceptionssv.org

Tuesday, May 31

Yoga in the Apse, 5 p.m. Based in the Hatha style, this one-hour class encourages relaxation, strength, flexibility and balance with an emphasis on integrated breathing techniques in standing, sitting and supine yoga postures. All levels welcome. University of Michigan Museum of Art, 525 S. State St., **Ann Arbor**. 734-647-7888. umma.umich.edu

Thursday, June 2

Jewish Gay Network Family & Friends, 7 p.m. LGBT group discussing issues impacting the LGBT and allied community. Meets 1st Thursday of every month. The Jewish Gay Network, 6600 W. Maple Road, **West Bloomfield**. 248-432-5661. jgnmi.org

Friday, June 3

An Evening Under the Poppy, 5:30 a.m. A benefit for the Ferndale Public Library and Queer for Books. Featuring author Kathe Koja. Cocktails, appetizers, and live music. Victorian punk costumes encouraged: top hats, fishnets, bustles. Ferndale Public Library, 503 E. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-546-2504. d.c.hellenberg@gmail.com

"We are Family" Parade, 6 p.m. Ferndale Pride, Withington Lot Alley, behind Affirmations, **Ferndale**.

GLBT & Allies Pep Rally, 7:30 p.m. Ferndale Pride, City Hall, **Ferndale**.

"Illuminating Our Diversity", 9 p.m. Night march. Ferndale Pride, Withington Lot Alley, behind Affirmations, **Ferndale**.

Saturday, June 4

Family Picnic, 12 p.m. Carnival themed family picnic. Families bring their own lunches, supplemented with Affirmations provided cotton candy, popcorn, chips, and beverages. Circus characters, gripper parachuting, magic station, bean bag/ring toss, relay racing, beading and a family photo station. Motor City Pride, 2-48 Michigan 10, **Detroit**. 313-527-7000. info@motorcitypride.org motorcitypride.org

Second Annual Southeast Michigan Dyke March and Rally, 1 p.m. This all-inclusive, family friendly event celebrates and supports all expressions of gender and sexual orientation in a movement of visibility, inclusion and equality. A rally with food and a variety of entertainment will be held at Geary Park following the march. More information available online. Southeast Michigan Dyke March, Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 586-549-8054. semidykemarch.org

Motor City Pride-Doggie Drag Show, 3 p.m. Prizes presented in several categories. Motor City Pride, 2-48 Michigan 10, **Detroit**. 313-527-7000. motorcitypride.org

Motor City Pride Official After Party, 10 p.m. Performances by celebrity DJs Dave Aude, Perry Twins, Joe Bermudez, DJ Mark and DJ Jace. $10 Cover for Flat 151, Detroit's newest event space situated on the sixth floor of the Murphy-Telegraph Building. Motor City Pride, 151 W. Congress, **Detroit**. 313-527-7000. motorcitypride.org

Sunday, June 5

Motor City Pride-Pride Parade, 11 a.m. Steps off at 11 a.m. and is open to any organization or business that would like to join. Applications online at motorcitypride.org/parade. Motor City Pride, 2-48 Michigan 10, **Detroit**. 313-527-7000. motorcitypride.org

Motor City Pride-Family Area, 12 p.m. Dr. Dinosaur, face painting with Mr. Colors, puppet shows, arts and crafts. Motor City Pride, 2-48 Michigan 10, **Detroit**. 313-527-7000. motorcitypride.org

MUSIC & MORE

COMEDY

Live Nation "Chelsea Handler" Lies That Chelsea Handler Told Me Tour Tickets: $49.50-69.50. The Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. April 2-June 3. 313-471-6611. chelseahandler.com

CONCERTS

Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo "Love After Love" This original collaboration between dance, spoken word, and music explores love, memory and loss. Wellspring Theater in The Epic Center, 359 S. Kalamazoo Mall, Ste 204, Kalamazoo. June 2-June 5. 269-873-2833. web.me.com/r2millerdance

Kerrytown Concert House "Trio La Vita" Composed of Maria Bessmeltseva, Carrie Pierce and Misuzu Tanaka, all DMA students at the University of Michigan. Tickets: $25-15, $5 students. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. May 26. 734-769-2999. kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Kerrytown Concert House "Dobbins/Krahnke/Weed Trio" Saxophonist Wes "Warmdaddy" joins the trio for evening of informal dialogue, giving the audience a picture of his musical life in jazz. Tickets $30-10, $5 students. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. May 27. 734-769-2999. kerrtownconcerthouse.com

Pharoahs Treasure Box & 5 Mo Artists Detroit "5 Mo' Artists Detroit" A portion of the proceeds to Karibu House LGBT Urban Youth Resources. Samaritan Center, 5555 Conner Ave., Detroit. 6 p.m. June 4. 248-688-5178. 5moartistsdetroit2011.eventbrite.com

Royal Oak Music Theater "Robin Trower" Tickets: $32. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St, Royal Oak. 7 p.m. May 26. 248-399-2980. royaloakmusictheatre.com

Royal Oak Music Theatre "Robyn" With Special Guests Diamond Rings & Natalie Kills. Tickets: $20. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St, Royal Oak. 7 p.m. June 4. 248-399-2980. robyn.com

The Ark "Suzanne Westenhoffer" Tickets:$26. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. June 3. 734-761-1800. theark.org

The Ark "Gaelic Storm" Tickets: $22.50 The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. June 1. 313-761-1818. theark.org

The Ark "Lipbone Redding & the Lipbone Orchestra" Tickets: $15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. June 4. 313-761-1818. theark.org

The Ark "Joe Ely" Tickets: $25. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. June 7. 313-761-1818. theark.org

The Ark "The Hillbenders" Tickets: $13.50. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. June 8. 313-761-1818. theark.org

FESTIVALS

The Henry Ford "Civil War Remembrance" More than 450 military reenactors create an authentic Civil War encampment for an observance filled with parades, artillery demonstrations and heartfelt 19th-century music. Admission: $22 adult, $21 senior, and $16 youth. The Henry Ford Museum, 20900 Oakwood, Dearborn. May 28-May 29. 313-982-6001. thehenryford.org

FILM & VIDEO

Penn Theatre "Charade" Tickets: $3. Cary Grant Month. Penn Theatre, 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth. 6:30 p.m. May 26. 734-453-0870. penntheatre.com

OTHER

Farmington Downtown Development Authority "Art on the Grand" Sample a selection of wines for $25. At the door purchase only. Full pour beers and wines will also be available on-site. Walter E. Sundquist Pavilion, 33113 Grand River Ave., Farmington. 7 p.m. June 4. 248-473-7276. downtownfarmington.org

Michigan Opera Theatre Volunteer Association "BravoBravo" A fundraiser for the Michigan Opera Theatre with art, fashion and more. Tickets: $85, $125 VIP. Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway, Detroit. June 4-June 3.

Planterra "Summer Workshop Series" A series of informative workshops to inspire the green thumb in everyone. Advance registration is required. Planterra Conservatory, 7315 Drake Road, West Bloomfield Township. June 5-June 28. 248-661-1515. planterra.com

Windover Women's Resort "Memorial Day BBQ" Reservations made online. BBQ and hoedown. Windover Women's Resort, 3596 Blakely Road, Owendale. 5 p.m. May 28. 989-375-2586. windoverwomensresort.com

THEATER

CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

A Midsummer Night's Dream $5. Warren Civic Theatre at City Square Park at the Warren Civic Center, 12 1/2 Mile Road. & Van Dyke, Warren. May 28-29. 586-268-8400. warrencivic.org

Dirty Rotten Scoundrels $17. Village Players, 34660 Woodward Ave., Birmingham. Through May 28. 248-644-2075. birminghamvillageplayers.com

Hairspray $18-$20. Stagecrafters at Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette Ave., Royal Oak. Through June 12. 248-541-6430. stagecrafters.org

Little Shop of Horrors $15. Center Stage Jackson at Jackson Community College's Baughman Theatre, 2111 Emmons Road., Jackson. Through May 29. centerstagejackson.org

Musical Comedy Murders of 1940 $14. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., Lansing. June 2-12. 517-482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com

Rabbit Hole $18. Redbud Productions at Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti. June 2-5. 734-663-7167. redbudproductions.com

The Drowsy Chaperone $18. The Players Guild of Dearborn, 21730 Madison St., Dearborn. Through May 29. 313-561-TKTS. playersguildofdearborn.org

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY THEATER

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee $15. Eastern Michigan University Theatre at Sponberg Theatre in the Quirk Dramatic Arts Bldg., East Circle Dr. & Best Hall, Ypsilanti. June 3-11. 734-487-2282. emich.edu/emutheatre

PROFESSIONAL

Blood Brothers $25-$29. Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. June 3-19. 269-343-2727. farmersalleytheatre.com

Cirque D'O $17-$22. Meadow Brook Music Festival, 3554 Walton Blvd., Rochester Hills. May 28. 1-800-745-3000. palacenet.com

Crimes of the Heart $28-$30. Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E. Cady St., Northville. Through June 25. 248-347-0003. tippingpointetheatre.com

Eleemosynary $18-$24. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam Rd., Williamston. Through June 12. 517-655-7469. williamstontheatre.org

Endangered A Late Night Show. $10. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff Ave., Hamtramck. June 3-18. 313-365-4948. planetant.com

Ernie $20-$25. City Theatre, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Through June 26. 313-471-6611. olympiaentertainment.com

Fridays and Saturdays at Go Comedy! Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. gocomedy.net

Looking for the Pony A Michigan premiere. $17 in advance; $20 at the door. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. June 2-26. 313-868-1347. detroitreptheatre.com

Love! Valour! Compassion! $10-$20. Who Wants Cake? at The Ringwald, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Through June 6. 248-545-5545. whowantscaketheatre.com

Next Fall Previews June 2-5 & 9. $22-$41. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. June 2-July 3. 734-663-0681. performancenetwork.com

Opera at The Acorn $25. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 8 p.m. June 4. 269-756-3879. acorntheater.com

Quixote Fusion $35 adult, $5 ages 7-12. Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. 8 p.m. May 29. 269-857-2399. sc4a.org

Seascape $15-$25. Blackbird Theatre, 325 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. Through May 28. 734-332-3848. blackbirdtheatre.org

Some Couples May... $25-$40. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Through May 28. 734-433-7673. purplerosetheatre.org

Steel Magnolias $16. The Box Theater, 51 N. Walnut, Mount Clemens. Through June 5. 586-954-2311. theboxtheater.com

Sundays at Go Comedy! $7 for the night. Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. gocomedy.net

The Great Big Bar Show $20. Barn Theatre, 13351 W. M-96, Augusta. May 31-June 12. 269-731-4121. barntheatre.com

The Lady With All the Answers $18-$24. Stormfield Theatre, 201 Morgan Lane, Lansing. Through June 5. 517-372-0945. stormfieldtheatre.org

The Last Five Years $30-$35; $79.95-$89.95 dinner show tickets per couple. Andiamo Novi Theatre, 42705 Grand River Ave., Novi. May 25-June 25. 248-348-4448. andiamonovitheatre.com

The Last Five Years $22. The Encore Musical Theatre, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. May 26-June 5. 734-268-6200. theencoremusicaltheatre.org

The Model Apartment $32-$41; seniors $3 off. The Jewish Ensemble Theatre at Aaron DeRoy Theatre at the Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple Rd., West Bloomfield. Through June 5. 248-788-2900. jettheatre.org

The Orphan Muses $20. Breathe Art Theatre Project at Studio Theatre in the Jackman Dramatic Art Centre, University of Windsor, Windsor. May 26-29. breatheartheatre.com

YOUNG AUDIENCES

Sleeping Beauty $10 adult, $5 children. PuppetART at Detroit Puppet Theater, 25 E. Grand River, Detroit. June 4-June 25. 313-961-7777. puppetart.org

The Hundred Dresses $7. Kalamazoo Civic Youth Theatre, Parish Theatre, 426 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. Through May 28. 269-343-1313. kazoocivic.com

Turtle Island A parable inspired by the legend that came from the heart and soul of the Native People of North America. $10 adult, $5 children. PuppetART, Detroit Puppet Theater, 25 E. Grand River, Detroit. Through May 28. 313-961-7777. puppetart.org

ART'N' AROUND

Ann Arbor Art Center "the PRINT " This exhibition aims to educate the community about the different techniques and styles of printmaking by displaying the works of a variety of talented artists. Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty St, Ann Arbor. May 9-June 26. 734-994-8004. annarborartcenter.org

Cass Cafe "5w-30" Three-artist exhibit within the Cass Cafe thought of as a synonym for a sort of psychological endurance typified by living in Detroit and Michigan. Cass Cafe, 4620 Cass Ave., Detroit. April 16-June 11. 313-831-1400. casscafe.com

Craig Mitchell Smith Glass Gallery "Glass in the Garden" Display of larger than life glass art in the garden. Admission: $5. Dow Gardens, Midland MI, 1809 Eastman Ave., Midland. May 22-July 31. 800-362-4874. dowgardens.org

Detroit Artist's Market "Northern Michigan Artists" The Detroit Artists Market brings exhibition of northern Michigan artists who express themselves in a variety of media and who have been touched by the Northern Lights. John F. Korachis, Curator Detroit Artist's Market, 4719 Woodward Avenue, Detroit. April 28-May 28. 313-832-8540. detroitartistsmarket.org

Downriver Council for the Arts "Cheryl Phillips and Betty Prudden" Exhibitions are free and open to the public. Downriver Council for the Arts, 81 Chestnut, Wyandotte. April 15-May 27. 734-720-0671 . downriverarts.org

Downriver Council for the Arts "Jured Photography Exhibit" The DCA is accepting entries for a jured photography exhibit at the Wyandotte Arts Center. Professional and amateur photographers can submit up to four entries. A non-refundable $15 entry fee is required for all entries. Exhibit begins Sept. 8. Wyandotte Arts Center, 2306 Fourth St., Wyandotte. May 1-Aug. 31. 734-324-7278.

Eastern Michigan University "Molly Marie Nuzzo Art Exhibit" Molly Marie Nuzzo is an Ypsilanti-based painter whose award-winning work has been exhibited regionally and nationally. Her recent drawings and paintings use portraiture to investigate the embodiment of queer identities and question the gender binary. EMU University Gallery, 900 Oakwood, Ypsilanti. May 23-June 3. 734-487-1268. art.emich.edu

Farmington Downtown Development Authority "Farmington Farmers & Artisans Market" Each Saturday. Fresh Michigan produce, baked goods, locally-produced honey, hand-crafted soaps and emollients, fine art and jewelry, photography and a variety of unique, artisan-made products. Walter E. Sundquist Pavilion, 33113 Grand River Ave., Farmington. May 28-Oct. 29. 248-473-7276. downtownfarmington.org

Farmington Downtown Development Authority "Art on the Grand" Juried fine arts fair. The artist booth area is presented by the Farmington Hills Special Services Department's Cultural Arts Division in partnership with the Farmington Downtown Development Authority. Art on the Grand showcases over 100 fine artists and crafts persons from across the country, working in various media, including paintings, sculpture, fiber, ceramics, glass, photography, and more. Walter E. Sundquist Pavilion, 33113 Grand River Ave., Farmington. June 3-June 5. 248-473-7276. downtownfarmington.org

Henry Ford Museum "Discovering the Civil War" Tickets: $15 adults, $11 youth. 20900 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn. May 21-Sep. 5. 313-982-6001. thehenryford.org

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts "Portrait and Presence" Contemporary portraiture pursues a complex and personal approach to the genre's traditional representation of the subject's visage and social identity. Admission: Free. Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. May 1-July 20. 269-349-7775. kiarts.org

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts "2011 West Michigan Area Show" The WMAS celebrates contemporary work in all media, by artists working in a 14-county area. The 2011 exhibition will be shaped by this year's juror, Michigan ceramicist John Glick. Working from his Farmington Hills studio since 1965, established just 3 years after graduating from Cranbrook Art Academy, Glick's constant has been experimentation. Admission: Free. Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. May 7-June 26. 269-349-7775. kiarts.org

Kerrytown Concert House "Ebb and Flow" Laura Seligman's work explores color, fluid lines and texture through the lens of a camera as well as the luminosity of hand-dyed silk. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. May 3-May 31. 734-769-2999 . kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Kresge Art Museum "Visualizing Sound" Harry Bertoia's sound-producing, beryllium copper sculpture, Sound Piece, 1978, will interact with a digital visualizer in this performative sculpture experience. MSU, Auditorium & Physics Road, East Lansing. April 30-July 21. artmuseum.msu.edu. 517-884-0659

Lawrence Street Gallery "US Route 66: The Death of an American Icon" Fascinating and hauntingly beautiful photo documentary on US Route 66 by Arnold Berkman. Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward, Ferndale. May 5-May 28. 248-544-0294. lawrencestreetgallery.com

Riverside Arts Center "Figuratively Speaking" Interpretations of the Human Form. A 2D and 3D exhibit. Reception May 7. Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti. May 5-May 28. 734-480-2787. riversidearts.org

Saugatuck Center for the Arts "PIE: A Slice of Pure Michigan" Exhibit examines how West Michigan's unique micro-climate created a fruit growing industry worth millions of dollars. Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver Street, Saugatuck. May 16-June 20. 269-857-2399. sc4a.org

The Scarab Club "Blooms, Bugs, Beasts" Popular annual exhibition at the Scarab Club for many years. The theme of the juried exhibition is flowers, insects, animals, landscapes and seascapes. Scarab Gallery, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. May 18-June 25. 313-831-1250. scarabclub.org

The Scarab Club "Benedictions, Blessing, Bombast" Charles Alexander has been a fixture on the Detroit art scene for decades. In honor of Charles' 75th birthday, the Scarab Club hosts a solo exhibition of his work in the second floor lounge gallery. Scarab Gallery, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. May 18-June 25. 313-831-1250. scarabclub.org

University of Michigan "Amalia Pica" London-based Argentinian artist's investigations into perception, time, and memory, as well as a desire to explore how particular gestures read in different cultural contexts, pursued across a diverse body of work in sculpture, photography, film, and installation, as well as temporary interventions on buildings, monuments, and objects. University of Michigan Museum of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. May 28-Sep. 18. 734-763-4186.

University of Michigan Museum of Art "Life in Ceramics: Five Contemporary Korean Artists" This exhibition focuses on five artists with well established reputations in Korea, whose visually stunning ceramic objects acknowledge and engage with Korean clay traditions yet embody innovative, unexpected art making and conceptual approaches. University of Michigan Museum of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. April 1-June 26. 734-647-0524. umma.umich.edu

Add your events to next week's issue!
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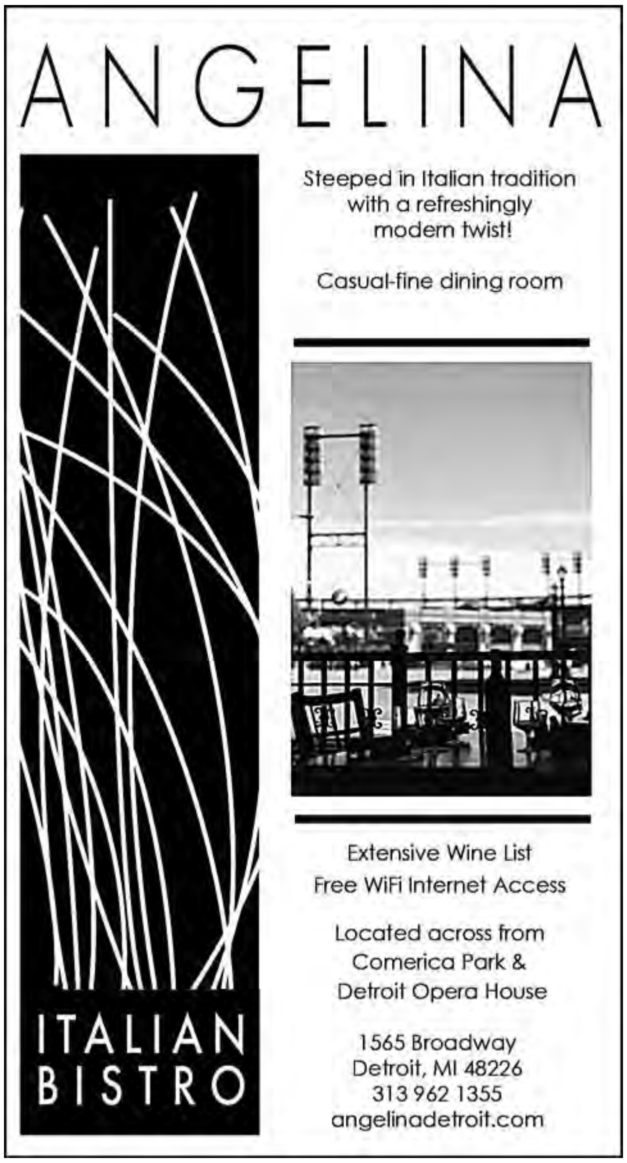
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Dear Jody

BY JODY VALLEY

A web funeral?

Q: My “Uncle George” died recently. My “Aunt Mabel,” Uncle George’s wife, is in the hospital right now. She’s expected to get better, but the doctors don’t know how long she’ll be hospitalized. The doctor told my cousin “David” (Uncle George and Aunt Mabel’s son) that even when she’s able to get out, she will be very weak and will need to go into rehab before she will be able to go home. Also, “Sam,” Uncle George’s brother, is very ill and won’t be able to travel from Oregon for the service.

David talked to me about delaying the memorial, but the problem is that we have no idea how long it will take for my aunt to be able to go to a service. When David asked her what she wanted, she couldn’t seem to make any decision; she just wanted David to take care of it. David said she didn’t seem capable of making the decision, probably due to her illness and the fact that she let my uncle do all the decision making in their marriage – plus, of course, she’s upset about her husband’s death.

I suggested that we go ahead with the service, and stream the memorial service to my Aunt Mabel in the hospital, as well as to my Uncle Sam in Oregon. We would have my sister (Aunt Mabel is very close to her and has always thought of her as more of a daughter) in the hospital with her during that time. (My sister has agreed to that.) There would be someone in Oregon supporting Uncle Sam as well.

The problem is that my mother – Uncle George’s sister – is totally against this. She thinks it is “sacrilege” to web stream the service. She can’t seem to say why, but she’s convinced that it is against God’s will, just like she thinks I’m against God’s will. I have been putting up with this kind of talk since I came out to my mother, 20 years ago. Sometimes I wish she’d just decide not to talk to me, but she seems to want to stay in my life so she can let me know what a sinner I am – as well as reminding me that I am someone who God hates. When she found out that I suggested the web streaming, she said that it was “a knuckle-headed, gay idea!” (She said this in front of other relatives.)

The rest of the family is on-board with the plan to web stream the memorial service. When David explained it to my Aunt Mabel, even she thought that it was a good idea.

I have two questions for you, Jody: How do I get my mother to stop insulting me, especially in front of other people? Do you think it is wrong or crazy to stream a memorial service?

Treated Like Crap

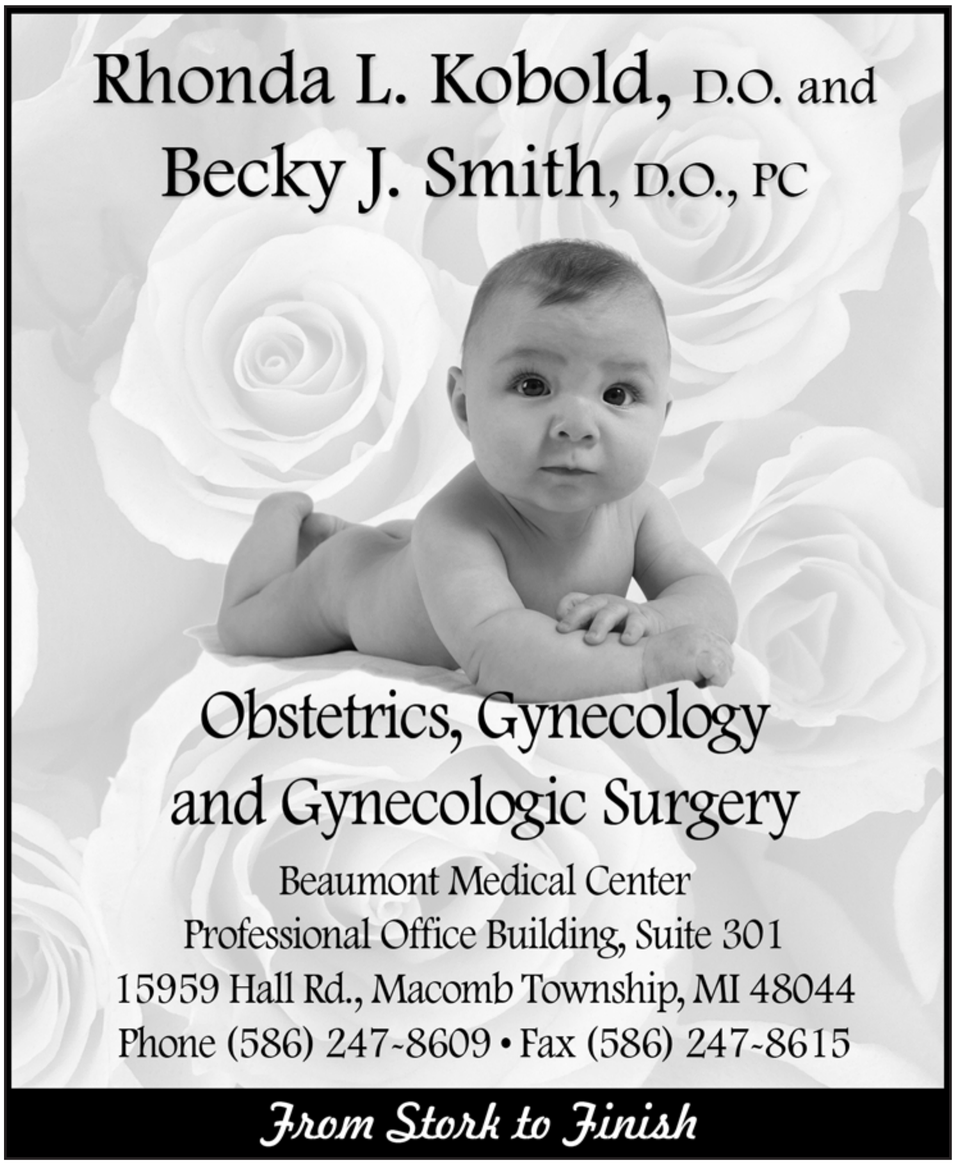
A: Let me answer the easy question first: Of course it isn’t wrong or crazy to web steam the memorial service. If it fits for the family, they should go ahead with the plan. You might have David talk to your mother since you and she have larger, personal issues that interfere with the issue of web streaming.

On how to get your mother to stop insulting you: The answer starts with you, not her. You need to respect yourself enough to stop putting up with how she speaks to you. She’s had 20 years to get used to and become accepting of you being gay, and she has chosen not to take that path. You, too, have had your part in this by letting her get away with treating you this way.

If you want her to stop, you are going to have to firmly insist on her treating you respectfully. Tell her, in detail, what you mean by this. Then let her know that if she can’t do this, you will no longer be a part of her life. That’s what it is going to take with her. If you are not ready to do this and stick to what you are saying, then you can expect her to continue to treat you as she’s been doing. It’s that simple, and that hard. I hope you will do this for yourself; you’ll like yourself better.

Do you have any rude, inconsiderate people in your life, at the workplace, in your social group, or in your family? Go to Dear Jody Valley on Facebook for some tips on how to deal with them.

Jody Valley spent 12 years as a clinical social worker. She worked with the LGBT community both as a counselor and a workshop leader in the areas of coming out, self-esteem and relationship issues. Reach Jody at DearJodyValley@hotmail.com. The “Dear Jody” column appears weekly.



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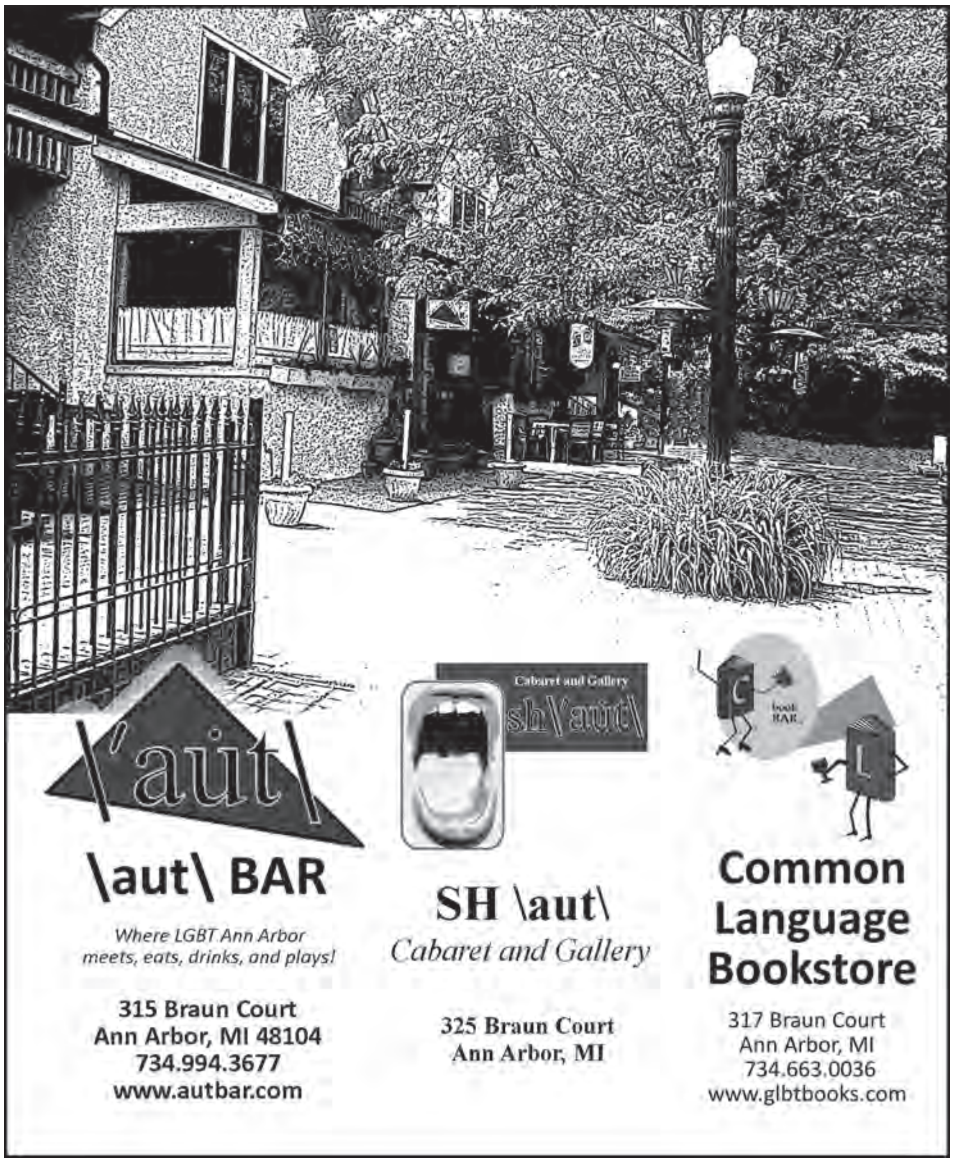

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BTL Horoscopes

You're sexy as hell, Gemini!

BY JACK FERTIG

Pluto and Eris, both in hard aspect to the Sun, bring out everyone's competitive streak, crank up the stakes and complicate the struggle. Communication is the key, which means you have to listen very carefully.

ARIES (March 20 – April 19): You need to clear the air and get something off your chest, but how and where you do that can make your motivations look nasty and bring similar results. Confide in your partner, or look for guidance from your boss.

TAURUS (April 20 – May 20): Give yourself room to vent, bitch, scream and let it all out. Everyone's feeling a pinch, and while solutions to economic problems may be evasive, holding the pressure in and stewing silently only undermines your ability to cope.

GEMINI (May 21- June 20): Yeah, yeah… You're sexy as hell. So what? You really need to buckle down to work and think hard about the future. You may not like what your friends are telling you, but they have good advice. Pay attention!

CANCER (June 21- July 22): Your imagination can be a trap sucking you away from much needed work, but it can also be a powerhouse to fuel your ambitions. Stay focused on your goals. Your partner can be counted on when you need an attitude adjustment.

LEO (July 23 – August 22): Get ready to lose an argument. Tossing out something you are sure of just so it can get really tossed out when you learn better can be the best thing that could happen. Deluxe bonus: Being an open-minded good sport can be mighty sexy!

VIRGO (August 23 – September 22): Achieving your goals could take some shrewd maneuvering. Be very careful whom you trust! Your mate has insights that will be helpful, even if they are a bit sneakier than you like. Better ideas come while you're away from work and having fun.

LIBRA (September 23 – October 22): Explore new ideas and approaches to your health regimen. Competitive sports can help keep you healthy. Competing with yourself for improving your personal best counts. Keep it cheap. A library book can be better than a gym membership.

SCORPIO (October 23 – November 21): Verbal aggression, if you do it right, can help you get ahead. Don't waste that energy on trash talk or vulgarity. A little creative writing – journaling, imagined dialogue or a short story – can help you find the words you need.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 – December 20): If you're looking for true love, try getting involved in a community arts program and let go of old expectations. Keeping a love you already have may also require abandoning expectations and working some creativity.

CAPRICORN (December 21 – January 19): You could come off way too strong in a turf war or trying simply to defend your home. The resulting argument could expose old resentments and start a healing process. Well, it could, but that won't be easy!

AQUARIUS (January 20 – February 18): Struggle between your deepest desires and economic necessity may feel brutal. There's no easy solution, but a conversation with your partner – light, playful, even completely off-topic – can help you find a way to afford your dreams, or find reconciliation.

PISCES (February 19 – March 19): A siege mentality at home will not solve any of your problems, and could just make it worse. Same old tactics get same old results. Keep your mind on long-range goals and be willing to entertain new ideas.

Jack Fertig, a professional astrologer since 1977, is available for personal and business consultations in person in San Francisco, or online everywhere. He can be reached at 415-864-8302, through his website at www.starjack.com, and by email at QScopes@qsyndicate.com.

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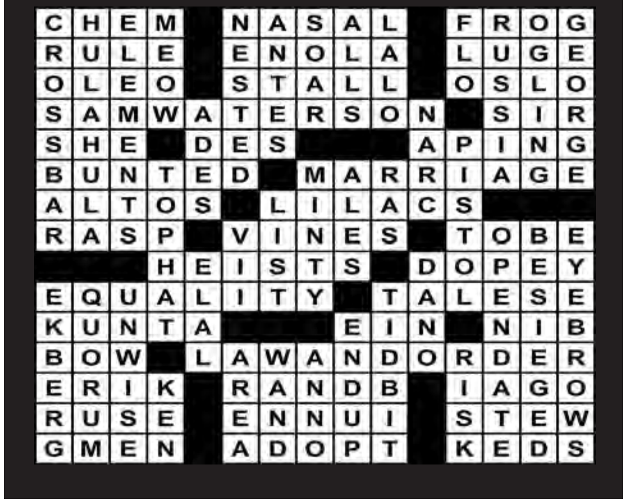
Solution to puzzle from page 38



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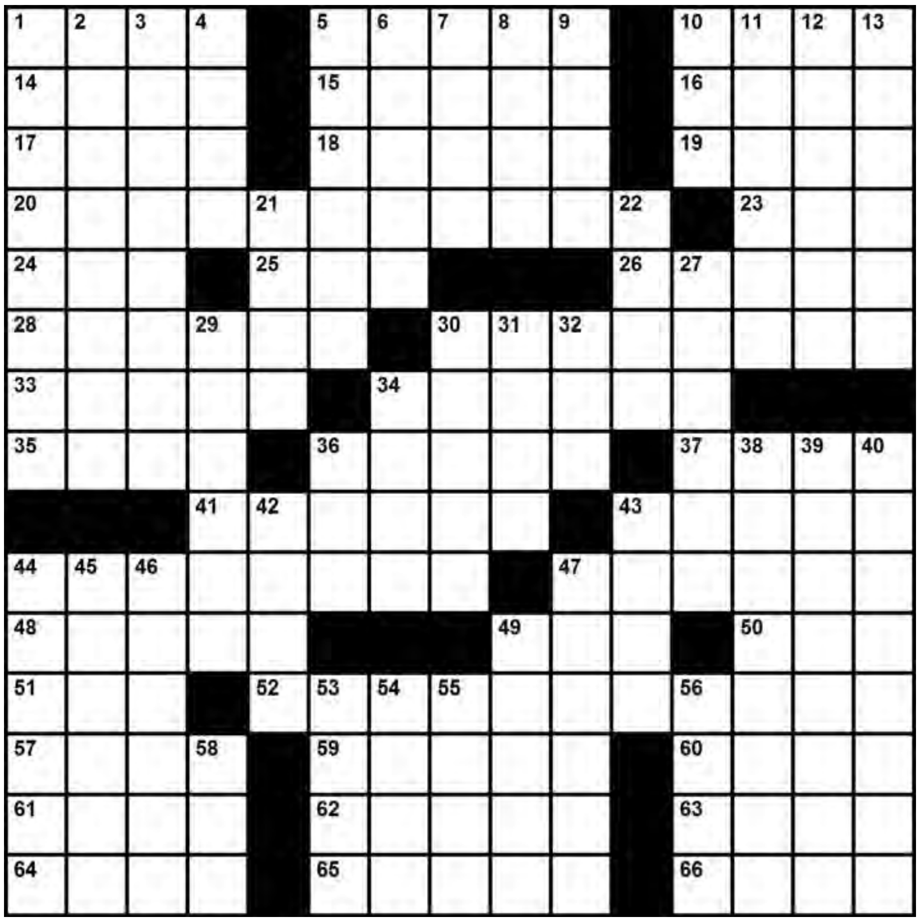

Chung Chung

Across

1 Class for future AZT makers
5 Of an appendage in your face
10 Unkissed prince?
14 “Desert of the Heart” novelist Jane
15 ___ Gay
16 NG: Racing sled
17 NG: Pancake topping
18 Glory hole locale
19 NG: Northern metropolis
20 Actor who plays Jack McCoy on 52-Across
23 Title for Elton
24 NG: Sea shell seller
25 Chef Traci ___ Jardins
26 Mimicking a Roddy McDowall role?
28 NG: Hit one not far from home
30 With 44-Across, what 20-Across recently came out in favor of
33 NG: Choir section
34 Whitman’s dooryard bloomers
35 Sound like Harvey Fierstein
36 NG: They help Tarzan become a swinger
37 Shakespearean soliloquy starter
41 A dick investigates them
43 Speechless Disney dwarf
44 See 30-Across
47 Gay ___
48 NG: Kinte of “Roots”
49 NG: A, as in Augsburg
50 NG: Fine point of writing
51 Bend over
52 TV series with the “chung chung” sound between segments
57 The Phantom of the Opera’s name
59 Genre for Marvin Gaye
60 He did Moor good, then harm
61 Trojan Horse, e.g.
62 NG: World-weariness
63 One way to cook fruit
64 NG: Some feds
65 Use someone else’s sperm?
66 NG: Joggers may wear them out

Down

1 Tavern for male and female impersonators?
2 _South Pacific_ dance
3 NG: Lead and gold
4 Sneaky Pie cry
5 Placed one inside another
6 NG: Starts the pot
7 Fly like an eagle
8 NG: “___ fair in love ...”
9 NG: Composer Edouard
10 “Alice” waitress
11 Nureyev’s homeland
12 NG: Gawking at
13 Takei of “Star Trek”
21 Fruity drinks
22 NG: Drug cop
27 NG: Hot symbol
29 Musical featuring “Cheek to Cheek”
30 Gay, in slang
31 NG: Inn inventory
32 NG: Dorm VIPs
34 Santa’s got a long one
36 Caesar’s lucky number?
38 When the New York Liberty doesn’t play, e.g.
39 NG: Assailed on all sides
40 Gay parents sometimes raise them
42 NG: Carrier to Tel Aviv
43 Paul of “Little Miss Sunshine”
44 Anita of “La Dolce Vita”
45 Three for a threesome, e.g.?
46 NG: Ill-advised
47 Ted Casablanca item
49 Come out in the long run
53 NG: Environs
54 Fairy godmother’s stick
55 Word used in dating
56 NG: Take a chance
58 Boy toy?

Solution on 37

Pet of the Week

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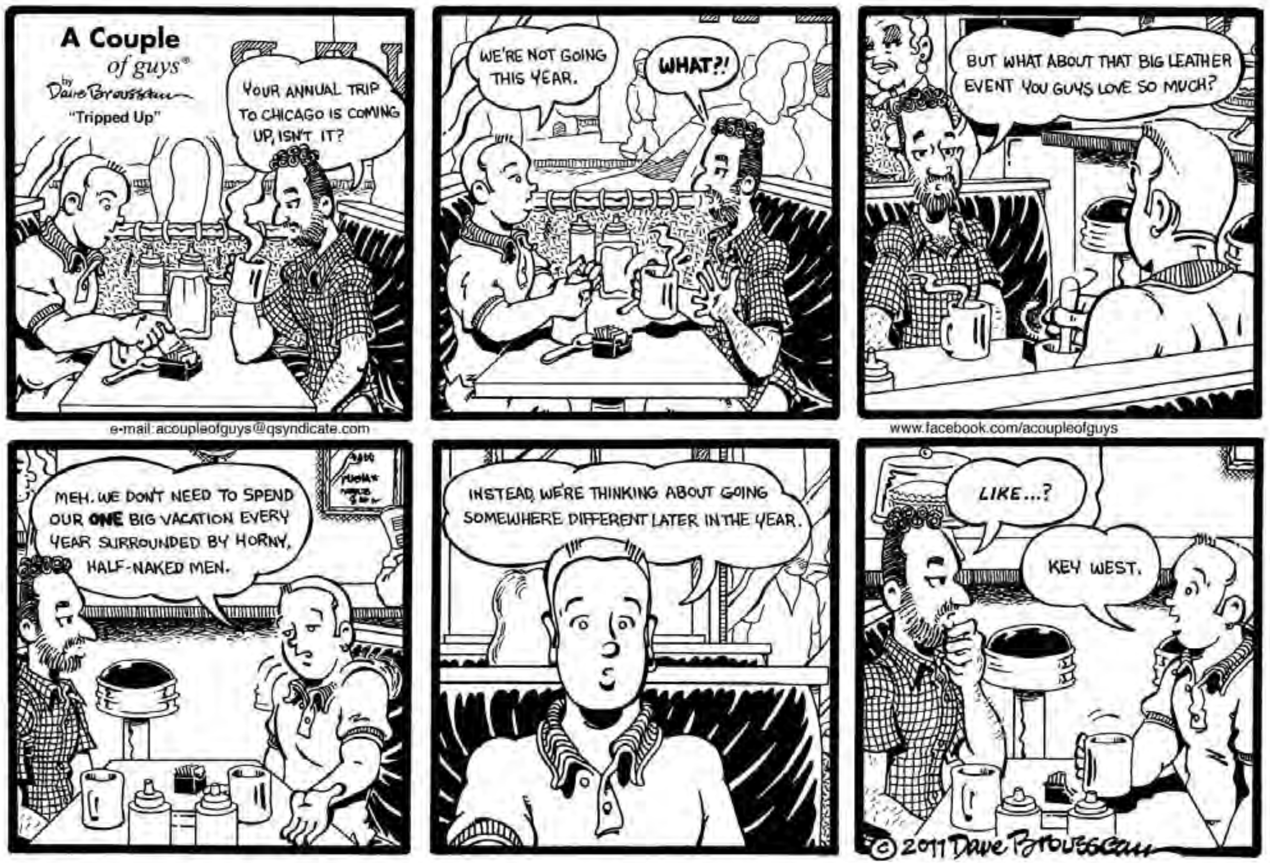
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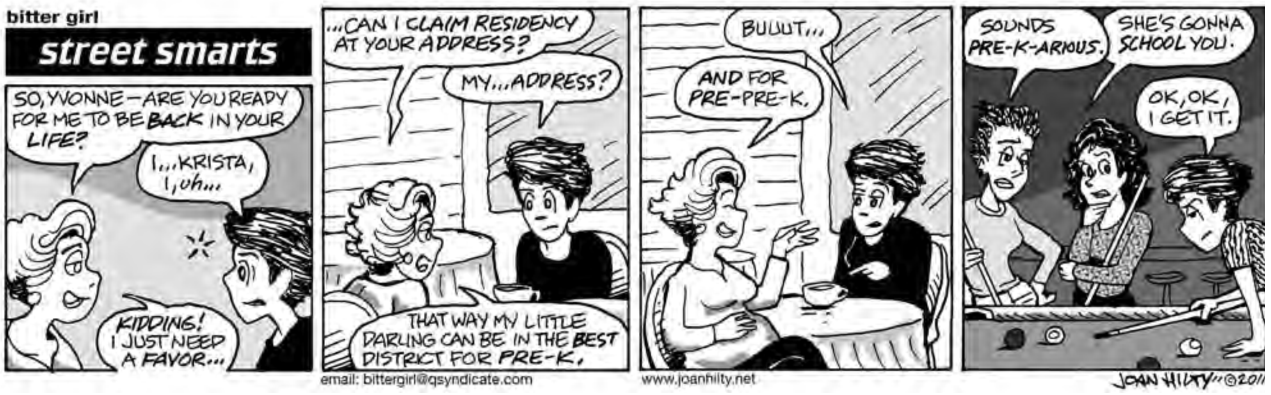
bitter girl
street smarts
SO, YVONNE—ARE YOU READY FOR ME TO BE BACK IN YOUR LIFE?
I...KRISTA, I, uh...
KIDDING! I JUST NEED A FAVOR...
...CAN I CLAIM RESIDENCY AT YOUR ADDRESS?
MY...ADDRESS?
THAT WAY MY LITTLE DARLING CAN BE IN THE BEST DISTRICT FOR PRE-K.
BUUUT...
AND FOR PRE-PRE-K.
SOUNDS PRE-K-ARIOUS.
SHE'S GONNA SCHOOL YOU.
OK, OK, I GET IT.
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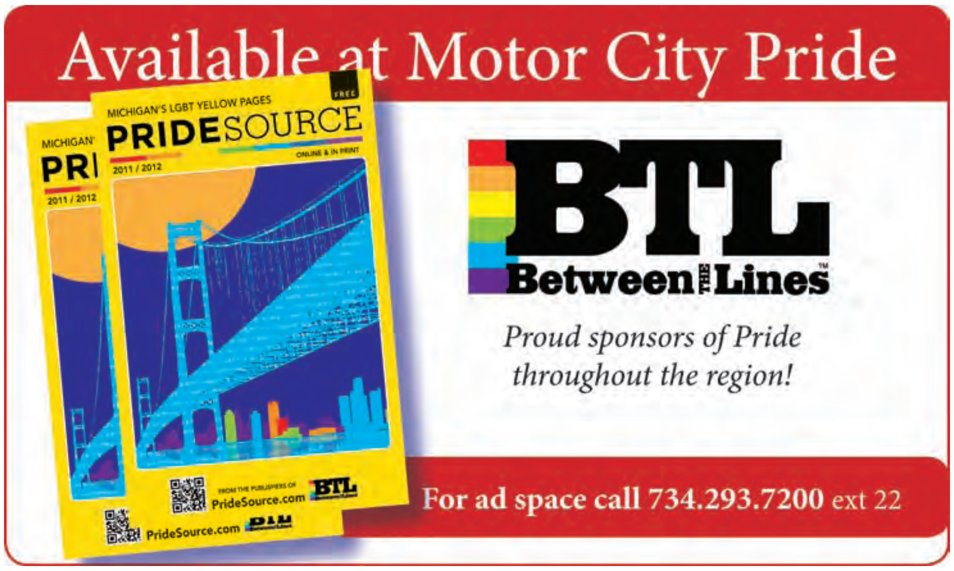
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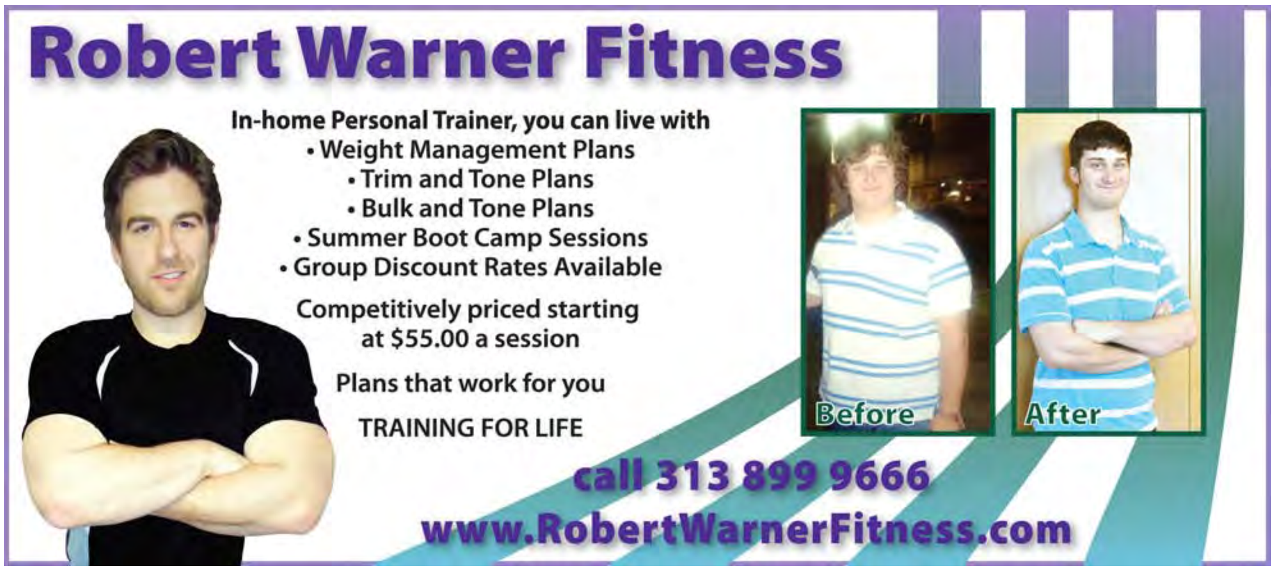
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BTL Queeries

BY STEVEN PETROW

Must two brides dress like twins?

Q: My fiancée and I are planning our wedding, which is going to be very "traditional" in many ways. We agree on almost all the details, except the all-important one of what we should wear. She really wants the full princess treatment – a classic silk or organza gown. Egads! The problem is, that's just not who I am! I'm comfortable in a dress (OK, sometimes), but I can't imagine myself in an all-out Cinderella getup. I know there are rules, or at least traditions, for heterosexual couples when it comes to wedding attire; but we don't have a lot to go on here. Can you help us?

A: First of all, congratulations on your upcoming nuptials – it always makes me happy to say that – and on the extent of your agreement (so far) on the zillions of details. A couple who can agree on a budget and a seating chart for their friends and family can surely solve any challenge life will send their way.

It's true that there's not a long history of same-sex weddings to guide you, but there certainly have been some high-profile couples (Ellen and Portia; Sir Elton and David Furnish) who've done this with style, so you can look to them as role models. And there are some basic principles that should help you come to a solution that will make you both happy.

First, know that there is a wide range of options for what two brides can wear to their wedding, from traditional gowns or tuxedoes to military uniforms or even western wear, should those hold significance or appeal for either of you.

Next, it's important to consider your wedding's level of formality (or informality).

If your wedding will be formal, you should both dress to the nines; but that doesn't mean your attire must be a copy of your beloved's. The outfits Ellen and Portia wore to their nuptials are great examples. Portia's pink and white halter-top dress was different from Ellen's white vest and trousers, but the brides complemented each other perfectly. What you don't want is for one of you to be formal and the other noticeably more casual – or that you're two strangers who happened to stop in front of the camera at the same time.

What pronoun should I use for a trans person?

Q: I was at a party last weekend and met someone whom I really enjoyed getting to know. Here's the thing: I wasn't sure about his or her gender identity, so I didn't know what pronoun to use. Any advice?

A: Most of the time, we don't actually need to use either a male or female pronoun when in conversation with an individual. That's what "you" is for. But if you find yourself in a legitimate situation needing to know (by the way, idle curiosity doesn't count) and the person's name doesn't do the trick, don't make an assumption. Instead, just ask: "Which pronoun do you prefer?" Sure, it might be a bit awkward, but less so than getting it wrong.

Can a sperm donor be considered a 'dad'?

Q: My oldest daughter is now 18 and is going to meet her sperm donor soon. My partner wants her to call him "bio dad," but I think that's ridiculous. He's never met her – how can we even think about him being a "dad"? Who do you think is right?

A: I don't think it really matters what either of you prefer for your daughter to call her sperm donor; that's entirely up to her and the nature of the relationship that develops between them (or doesn't). But I am glad that you chose a donor who agreed ahead of time to meet with his biological offspring when she came of age, giving your daughter the option to initiate contact with him through the sperm bank.

Rather than arguing with each other about what your daughter call her sperm donor, I'd suggest you use your time and energy to help your young lady think through the kind of relationship she might want with this fellow. Urge her to be realistic, and remind her that she might be in for a letdown. Disappointment can come in many flavors, such as that experienced by the two teens in "The Kids Are All Right," who learned that their sperm donor (the handsome but quirky Mark Ruffalo) was a real person with real flaws.

As with any relationship, this one will take time and patience if it's to succeed. In the end, your daughter may decide that she does, in fact, want to refer to him as "dad" – or she may wind up not referring to him at all.

Steven Petrow is the author of the new book Steven Petrow's Complete Gay & Lesbian Manners, to be published in June. He can also be found online at www.gaymanners.com. Got a question of your own? Email him: ask@gaymanners.com.

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BTL Deep Inside Hollywood

George Takei. Photo: Paramount Pictures

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

Will 'Star Trek' launch a gay into space?

You'd think that after more than a dozen movies and over 700 episodes of six different TV shows, there would have been at least one gay character float across the "Star Trek" universe by now. But no. Not one. And sorry, that actor in the last movie that everyone says is gay doesn't count. Neither does George Takei, as awesome as he is. But all of that might change – and here's where the word "if" comes into play in a major way – if a recent pitch for a new series from a company called 1947 Entertainment can gain traction. Their proposed "Trek" series would include a gay male character and a lesbian character, which would be a welcome addition to the family of space people audiences have grown attached to over the past 40-plus years. Mind you, the stage this thing is in is as changeable as the atmosphere on an alien planet, subject to destruction in the blink of an eye; there's no producer, no cast, no deal, no nothing just yet. But go on, get your hopes up. Why "shouldn't" it be time for "Star Trek" to boldly go where no "Star Trek" has gone before? The answer is: it should be.

Nathan Lane serves an Evil Queen

The race to be the first, biggest and best of the three (yes, three) Snow White-themed films coming to theaters just got gayer, with the addition of Nathan Lane to the cast of the as-yet-untitled Tarsem Singh-directed adaptation. Julia Roberts and Armie Hammer ("The Social Network") are already on board to star in this live-action version and Lane – in between guest spots as his recurring character "Pepper" on "Modern Family" – will enter the cast as a servant to the Evil Queen who's got it in for Snow, a man who serves the bad lady out of fear. In other words, this is the kind of wisecracking sidekick role that Lane can do in his sleep. But, then again, no one can do it quite like him, you have to admit. Expect to be as sick of poison apples in 2012 as you are of vampires in 2011, production schedules permitting.

Johnny Depp is going to get 'Thin,' man

You can't tell anyone in Hollywood anything. It seems like, more often than not, that people in positions of power believe they have the secret formula for remaking beloved, classic films in a new, fresh way that won't alienate audiences. They, alone, are going to be the ones to crack the code and avoid cranking out 100 minutes of pale imitation. Add Johnny Depp and director Rob Marshall to that list, then, of those determined not to leave well enough alone, because both of them have signed on for a remake of the 1934 Oscar-nominated comedy, "The Thin Man." The original starred William Powell and Myrna Loy as Nick and Nora Charles, socialites whose hobbies are being witty, drinking cocktails and solving murders. This one will attempt to recapture that magic. All that's left to do now is to sit back and wait for it to surprise everyone like "Ocean's Eleven" or put them to sleep like Gus Van Sant's "Psycho." And though the odds are against it, if anybody can make this work, it's Depp.

'Glee' in 3D

Landlocked Gleeks, this one's for you. "GLEE LIVE! 3D!" is coming soon to a theater near you. 20th Century Fox TV is rushing a feature film into theaters this August to capitalize on the mania surrounding the show and to immortalize the second summer of concert touring by the cast. Yes, this is a concert film, not an extended, theatrically-installed episode of the show, and will follow in the footsteps of Michael Jackson's "This Is It" and "Justin Bieber: Never Say Never" as a limited-run release (that will, no doubt, extend itself unlimitedly as long as tickets are still selling). It will star usual suspects Lea Michele, Cory Monteith, Amber Riley, Chris Colfer, Kevin McHale, Jenna Ushkowitz, Mark Salling, Dianna Agron, Naya Rivera, Heather Morris, Harry Shum Jr., Chord Overstreet, Ashley Fink and Darren Criss, which we assume means a squadron of Warblers along for the ride, as well. And sorry, Sue Sylvester fans, Jane Lynch is busy.

Romeo San Vicente would prefer a version of Snow White where Chris Hemsworth kisses Armie Hammer. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.

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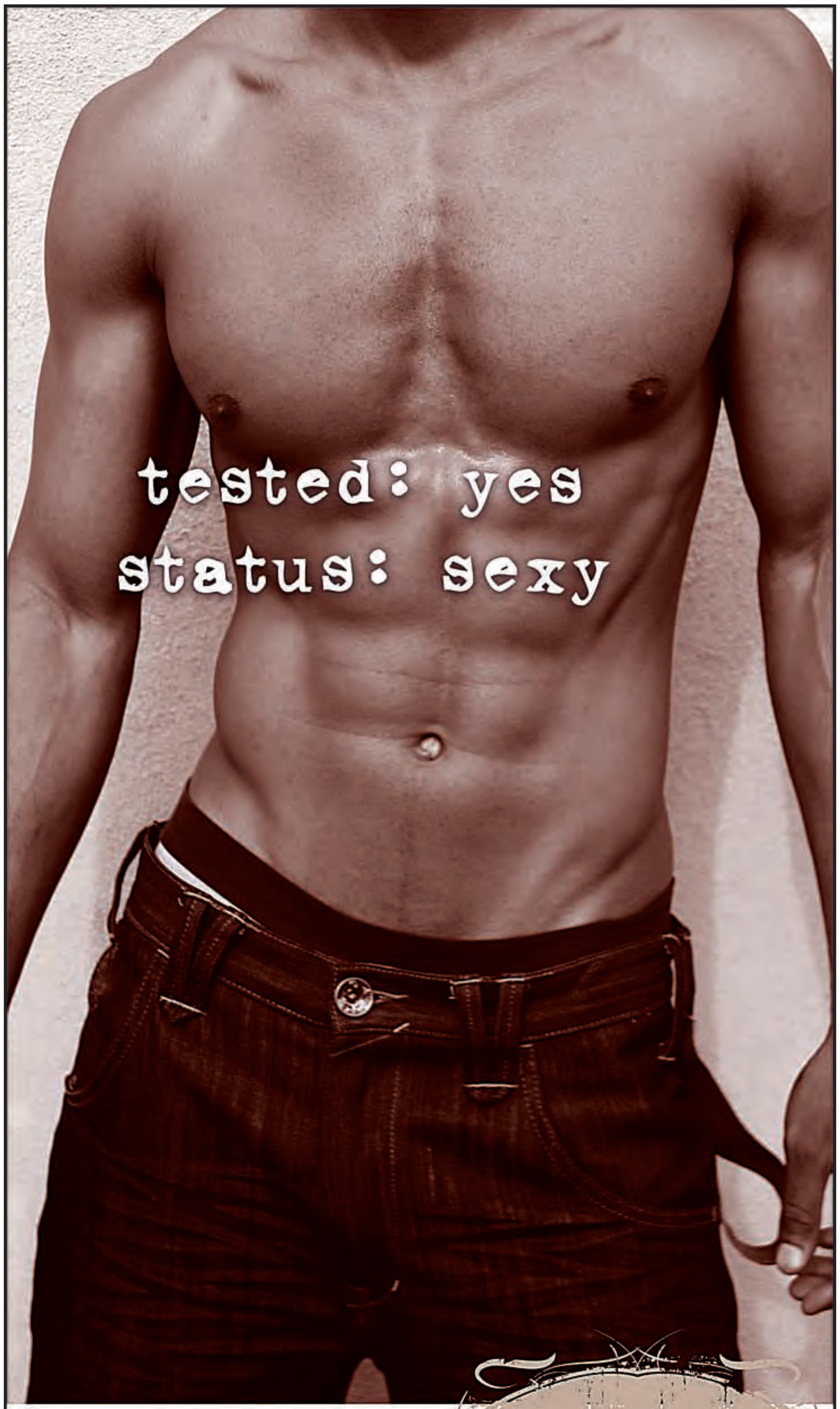

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